MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 JANUARY 1984

ICO Summit

Participants at the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) summit in Casablanca will send a delegation to Egypt officially inviting it to attend the conference, INA reported on 18 January. Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq submitted a draft resolution calling for Egypt's readmission to the ICO, INA said, and Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure supported the move. However, several Arab delegations opposed the proposal, according to a "high-ranking" participant cited by AFP. A "hot exchange" took place in the closed session between Sekou Toure and the Syrian and Libyan delegation leaders, KUNA reported, with the Guinean president asking "where the Arabs were" when Palestinians were being killed in northern Lebanon.

Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held meetings with Iraqi Revolution Command Council Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Turkish President Kenan Evren, and YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, INA, WAKH, and Ankara and San'a' radios reported. A "responsible" source in Casablanca, cited by KUNA, denied 'Arafat had met with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

In his address to the summit, Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan said that meetings between the PLO and Jordan have been necessary to combat the dangers threatening them both, Amman radio reported. Hasan also stressed that "Egypt must not remain outside the Arab and Islamic world."

In a related development, "Palestinian resistance factions" sent a memorandum to the conference condemning attempts to restore "the Camp David regime" to the ICO and rejecting any agreement between 'Arafat and either Egyptian or Jordanian officials, Damascus radio announced.

Lebanon

The president of the American University of Beirut, Dr Malcolm Kerr, was killed on 18 January when he was shot while entering his office, Beirut radio announced. The Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for both Kerr's assassination and the earlier kidnapping of the Saudi consul in Beirut, according to AFP.

A Saudi official source cited by SPA stressed that "such terrorist methods" as the kidnapping, "whatever the identity and affiliation of the perpetrators," will not change the Kingdom's policies.

Voice of Lebanon radio and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon cited reports that the kidnappers are Shi'ite fundamentalists.

PLO Affairs

'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim, a member of the Political Bureau of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), carried out a "dissident" movement against the PLF by leading an armed group in seizing the PLF offices in Damascus and arresting PLF Secretary General Tal'at Ya'qub, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. PLF Political Bureau member 'Ali Ishaq said the move was aimed at forcing the PLF leaders in Damascus to support the "Syrian-Libyan dissident movement, which has reached a dead end," according to the radio. On the other hand, SANA reported that 'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim "refuted" reports of Ya'qub's arrest and affirmed that the PLF leader is continuing work as usual in the wake of the PLF's plan to expel a "deviating clique" from its ranks. He said that those expelled are four members of the PLF Political Bureau: Muhammad Zaydan, 'Ali Ishaq, 'Umar Shibli, and Khalil 'Abd ar-Rahman, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Meanwhile, the PFLP and DFLP denounced the reported abduction in a statement which condemned the seizure of offices and persons and called on the PLF leaders to resolve their differences through "democratic dialogue," the radio noted.

Iran

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Abkar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received a message from the Supreme Soviet via the Soviet ambassador calling for Soviet-Iranian cooperation in the struggle against "world imperialism and U.S. acts of aggression," Tehran radio reported. Hashemi-Rafsanjani welcomed the idea of joint anti-imperialist struggle but said Iran expects the Soviet Union not to provide Iraq with missiles for use against Iranian civilians. The ambassador noted that the Soviet Government has cause to "remonstrate" with Iran because of the latter's "propaganda" campaign against the USSR, the radio said, but the Majlis speaker told the ambassador Iran would not have reacted against were it not for the USSR's "unprincipled attitude."

Earlier, in a speech to military officials reported by the radio, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the Revolution Guard Corps has now reached a "suitable" point to embark on operations against the Iraqis similar to those launched to defend Dezful and Abadan in the early phase of the war. However, such operations will have "much better results" than the earlier ones on Iranian territory, he added, and Iran's military potential has greatly improved.

Afghanistan

An unspecified number of senior Afghan civilian and military officials have defected to Pakistan, Karachi radio reported. In another report, the radio noted the capture of about 20 Soviet soldiers by Afghan mujahidin in two separate raids earlier this month.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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Casablanca Islamic Summit Conference Continues

17 Jan Morning Session

LD172253 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Excerpts] The fourth Islamic summit conference will resume shortly. The first session held this morning lasted approximately 4 and 1/2 hours. The session was devoted to a discussion of numerous reports forwarded by Islamic countries' kings and presidents regarding the results of the activities of the Islamic committees presided over by them. We shall now go over to our office in Casablanca.

The Fourth Islamic summit conference is now resuming its proceedings at the Royal Palace in Casablanca under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II. Leaders of the Islamic world held their first closed session this morning; it lasted 4 and 1/2 hours. They debated the issues included on the agenda announced by His Majesty King Hassan II at the end of the opening session yesterday. It is expected that the conference discussed the general report prepared by the foreign ministers in Rabat and examined Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure's report, in his capacity as chairman of the peace commission authorized to use its good offices to find a solution to the Iraqi-Iran war.

It is worth noting that the foreign ministers submitted a draft resolution to the summit expressing satisfaction with Iraq's responsive attitude to calls for peace, and calling for an immediate cease-fire and withdrawal of the warring forces to international borders.

Among the most important issues submitted to the fourth summit conference is the issue of holy Jerusalem, which is being dealt with by the conference in the light of His Majesty King Hassan II's report.

His Majesty King Hassan II, chairman of the fourth Islamic summit, has received a message from the Indian prime minister and chairman of the current session of the nonaligned group, Indira Gandhi, in which she called for the need to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine issue. She condemned Israel's violations of human rights in occupied Arab territories and emphasized that the foreign presence and increasing tension in Lebanon has created an explosive situation in the Middle East. Indira Gandhi expressed her regret at not being able to take part in the conference, and restated her hope that the Islamic summit debates will reflect the nonaligned countries' concerns, particularly since most members of the Islamic Congress Organization [ICO] are members of the movement.

Side meetings between Muslim leaders continued. Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba received at his residence Jordanian Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince Hasan ibn Talal and had talks with YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The Tunisian president today received Indonesian Vice President Umar Wirahadikusumah. The amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, conferred with the Amir of Kuwait. The Amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah conferred with Tuwayni ibn Hisham, adviser to the sultan of Oman. The UN secretary general, before leaving Morocco this afternoon, had a meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan; the talks dealt with the situation in Afghanistan. It is worth noting that Perez had already discussed the same issue yesterday with Pakistani President Ziaul Haq. Authoritative sources in Casablanca are reported to have stated that the UN secretary general at the beginning of the spring will begin a diplomatic tour that will include Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan with the aim of finding a solution to the Afghan crisis.

Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi today in Casablanca conferred with Syrian Deputy premier and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi today returned to Tunis after attending the opening session of the Islamic summit in Casablanca. Klibi left Morocco this afternoon.

Jordanian Crown Prince Address

JN172034 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Casablanca — His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has affirmed that the Palestine question is the cause of every Arab and Islamic country. It is a distinguished cause for Jordan because it deeply affects Jordan's life, foreign policy, and internal security. This is because the effects of what takes place in occupied Palestine is directly and clearly reflected in Jordan.

In his address today to the fourth Islamic summit that is currently convening in Casablanca, the crown prince said that due to the great dangers threatening both Palestine and Jordan, together with the Arab countries, it has been necessary for Jordan and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and their independent voice, to meet in order to coordinate action and joint moves so as to halt the loss of the Palestinian territories and to prevent the imposition of the policy of fait accompli from taking place. He emphasized that Jordan is the natural partner in bearing the responsibility and determining the future of these territories.

Crown Prince Hasan added: We and the PLO are jointly moving to prevent Israel from making use of the time factor, which it is currently utilizing to draw the curtain down on the Palestinian people's tragedy — a matter that requires us to keep the Palestinian question live and active.

The crown prince strongly denounced the Mediterranean-Dead Seas canal project, affirming that the project is a blatant violation of Arab and Palestinian rights and natural resources and detrimental to Jordan's infrastructure. The project also threatens Jordan's national security because it provides Israel with an increase in its nuclear capability by building more atomic reactors.

The crown prince said that Egypt must not remain outside the Arab and Islamic world especially since the enemy had prepared for its separation in order to neutralize its power in both the Arab and Islamic worlds, and to utilize this isolation in order to achieve its objectives in the region.

The crown prince touched on Israel's expansionist and settlement policy that is represented by aggressions to occupy more Arab lands, annexing these lands, continuing to build new settlements, expanding the old ones, moving refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza, and settling part of these refugees in the Jordan Valley. He said that Israel does not hide its ambitions on Jordan. It threatens Jordan by its false claim that Jordan is the homeland of the Palestinians and an alternate to Palestine, the whole of which is currently under Israeli control.

The crown prince called for intensified efforts to end the Iraqi-Iranian war and halt the human and economic attrition which is taking place in these two brotherly countries, and to provide the means to handle this dangerous problem on the basis of right and equality.

Delegation to Iran Discussed

LD172109 Kuwait KUNA in English 2006 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Casablanca, Jan 17 (KUNA) — The Islamic summit will discuss a proposal to send a delegation to Iran in an attempt to persuade it to attend the meeting of Islamic heads of state, conference sources told KUNA Tuesday.

The sources said that the proposal was made by Guinean President Ahmad Sekou Toure, who heads the "good offices committee" set up by the ICO to attempt to mediate a halt to the Iran-Iraq war. Delegates decided to continue discussion of the idea at a later session of the summit scheduled to begin at 8:00 pm local time.

Iran originally boycotted the Casablanca meeting because it accused a number of participants of being biased in favour of Iraq over the issue. But the sources said that the assembled leaders had agreed in principle to extend the conference, originally scheduled to end Wednesday, if Iran decided to send a delegation.

Second Session Concludes

LD180734 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0155 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Casablanca 18 Jan (SPA) — The fourth Islamic summit conference concluded its second session at 0415 Wednesday. It started at 2330 yesterday and lasted nearly 5 hours.

During this session, a number of important subjects on the agenda of the conference, among them the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Palestinian question, and the Afghan issue were reviewed.

Turkey's Evren Addresses Summit

TA1808Z8 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 0430 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] President Kenan Evren has said that a changing world has created new problems for the Islamic countries. However, it has also offered new opportunities. He stressed that the solidarity among Islamic countries must be enhanced in order to adapt to these conditions with prudence and efficiency.

In a speech delivered at the fourth summit meeting of the Islamic Conference in Casablanca, Morocco, Evren pointed out that the difficult and delicate situation in the region where Turkey is situated requires that the Islamic countries display a serious and determined attitude. He said: Therefore, we must above all try to resolve the ongoing conflicts and disagreements in our region. If we succeed in this, our chances to solve the other problems threatening world peace will be enhanced.

Explaining that Turkey's special interest in the Middle East region does not stem from geographical proximity but from its deep and historical ties with the Islamic people in the region, Evren said that for centuries Turkey has opposed Zionist pressure and the plan to partition Palestine and supported the just causes of the Arab peoples. Evren emphasized that the most suitable way to oppose Israel's policy in the region consists of uniting around an effective, realistic, and single counterstrategy. Evren recalled that the plan adopted at the Arab summit held in Fes in September 1982 comprised such a strategy for a general solution, adding, however, that the incidents in Lebanon slowed down the work in connection with this plan.

The Turkish president, noting that the countries in the region must first act to secure peace and justice in the region, said: As always, Turkey is prepared to support our Arab brothers in their just cause. However, we cannot refrain from thinking that the failure of Arab countries to act always in solidarity and unity renders the solution of the problem more difficult. We hope and wish that the feeling of unity and solidarity around a common cause will one day prevail over other historically important factors.

President Evren said that for [illegible] solution of the Lebanon problem, Israeli and other foreign forces must withdraw from this country.

He also recalled on Iran and Iraq to put an end to their war. He said: Turkey is ready to exert every possible effort in a bid to find a satisfactory and just solution to the differences between Iran and Iraq.

Commenting on the Cyprus issue, Evren said that the struggle waged by the Turkish Cypriot people aims at establishing a federal partnership that will not allow a repetition of past suffering and that the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus [TRNC] was proclaimed as a result of the systematic obstruction of these efforts. Noting that this is a final opportunity for the establishment of a federal structure on the island, the president said that the brotherly Islamic countries' support for the Turkish Cypriots constitutes a source of hope for the establishment of a lasting peace on the island.

Evren recalled that through various proposals submitted this month, Turkey and the TRNC made an appeal for peace, and added: I would like to point out that the only way to terminate the status quo based on the existence of two independence states in Cyprus is the establishment of a partnership between the two sides operating within a federal framework.

Egypt's Readmission Debated

LD181029 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0952 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Casablanca, 18 Jan (KUNA) — The leaders participating in the fourth Islamic summit held a second closed session today at dawn. The session continued for 8 hours to discuss a suggestion to ask Egypt to participate in the current summit.

There is no information on the outcome of the debate on the suggestion, which was submitted by Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, and also another suggestion by Sekou Toure calling for forming an Islamic delegation and sending it to Iran to convince it to attend the conference. But the conference sources said that the suggestion to ask Egypt to the summit faced strong opposition from Syria, Libya Algeria and Tunisia, while it was supported by asian and African countries.

Further Details

LD172008 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Casablanca, 17 Jan (KUNA) — KUNA has learned from sources close to the fourth Islamic Summit conference that President Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea has raised the question of Egypt's participation in the summit and the reestablishment of its membership of the Islamic conference. KUNA has learned that the Asian and African states have approved this point.

It was also learned that the closed session witnessed a hot exchange between President Sekou Toure and the head of the Syrian delegation, Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and the head of the Libyan delegation staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud.

At the session Sekou Toure asked where the Arabs were while the Palestinian people was being slaughtered in Tripoli, and he said that he would raise the question again at the evening session due to be held at 2000 this evening.

News Blackout on Egypt Debate

NC180746 Paris AFP in English 0736 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Casablanca, Jan 18 (AFP) — An attempt to readmit Egypt to the Islamic conference, backed most notably by Guinea and Pakistan, has met with the opposition of several Arab delegations, a high-ranking participant in the Islamic conference said early today. The delegate did not say which countries had opposed the effort, and it could not be learned whether a final decision had been made during last night's second work session of the 42 delegation leaders.

Summit officials last night imposed a news blackout on the deliberations over the status of Egypt, which was excluded from the Islamic conference after it signed a separate peace with Israel in 1979.

Foreign correspondents have been housed 30 kilometers (20 miles) to the north of the summit, in the small port of Mohammedia.

The Moroccan News Agency MAP, the only agency with direct access to the meetings, had not reported anything on the summit since 2230 GMT last night, when it reported the resumption of deliberations.

In its latest news bulletin, Morocco state radio also (?failed)to report on the summit.

Possible Egyptian Invitation

JN181038 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Casablanca, 18 Jan (INA) — The INA team covering the fourth Islamic summit currently convening here has learned that Pakistan has officially taken up the issue of Egypt's return to the ICO.

A dispatch by the INA team says that Pakistani President Ziaul Haq has submitted a draft resolution calling on the fourth Islamic summit to readmit Egypt to the ICO.

In his speech Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure had called for Egypt's return to the organization in view of Egypt's human and strategic importance.

Reports circulated there mention that the heads of the Islamic countries intend to send a delegation, comprising representatives from several countries, to Egypt to officially invite it to attend the summit.

Evren Meets Perez de Cuellar

TA171440 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1400 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Report by Turkish Radio and Television correspondent Mustafa Kemal Eric from Casablanca on 17 January 1984 — recorded]

[Text] President Kenan Evren, who is currently in Casablanca for the Islamic Conference summit meeting, held a meeting with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar this morning. The meeting lasted 1 hour and 40 minutes. In a statement after the meeting, Evren said that he exchanged views with the UN secretary general on regional and world issues, including the Cyprus problem. Speaking to journalists, Evren recalled that Turkey is in favor of a Cyprus solution through negotiations and stressed that Perez is exerting efforts toward this end. Evren pointed out, however, that both sides must sit down at the negotiating table without preconditions in order to resolve the problem. Evren also mentioned the UN Security Council resolution on the Cyprus issue, adding that this resolution cannot be implemented.

In his turn, Perez de Cuellar said that he held a very useful meeting with Evren on regional and world problems. Stressing that it is necessary to approach the Cyprus problem realistically without indulging in excessive optimism or pessimism, Perez noted he is also continuing his well-intentioned moves within this framework. He pointed out that if the two sides in Cyprus exert efforts for a political solution, a settlement will be facilitated.

adding that he wants to continue the useful exchange of views with Evren in Ankara.

Meanwhile, the second session of the fourth summit meeting began at 1400 Turkish time today. During today's session, which is being held in camera, the heads of state and government and foreign ministers of member countries will discuss the draft resolutions drawn up at the earlier preparatory meeting.

Evren Remarks Cited

NC171729 Paris AFP in English 1639 GMT 17 Jan 84

[By Sinan Fisek]

[Excerpts] Casablanca, Morocco, Jan 17 (AFP) — Turkish President Kenan Evren today rejected any Greek Cypriot preconditions for a resumption of the intercommunal talks on the divided eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

General Evren, who is attending the Fourth Summit of the ICO made the statement to newsmen after a meeting with UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Turkish Cypriots here attending the ICO summit with observer status said there was an incident yesterday just after an opening speech of the meetng by Mr Perez de Cuellar.

Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktas protested first verbally, then in a note to UN headquarters in New York, against the secretary-general's use of the term "UDI" (unilateral declaration of independence) in referring to the Turkish Cypriot proclamation.

"UDI implies that the Turkish community was subject to the Greek community on the island," said the Turkish Cypriot State's Foreign Minister Necati Munir Ertekun. He said this was in violation of previous agreements on Cyprus, which accepted that both communities formed the Cypriot nation on an equal footing.

Evren Meets 'Arafat, UAE Envoy

TA172016 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2000 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] President Kenan Evren, who is in Casablanca, Morocco, to attend the Islamic summit conference, held separate meetings with PLO leader 'Arafat and United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The Turkish Radio and Television crew in Casablanca reports that the Middle East question was discussed at both meetings. President Evren is expected to deliver a speech at the summit conference.

Denktas Bilateral Contacts

TA171620 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyrpus 1530 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] President Rauf Denktas, who is currently in Casablanca for the Islamic Conference summit meeting, is continuing his intensive contacts. According to a TAK [Turkish News Agency in Cyprus] report, Denktas held separate meetings with the leaders or representatives of the PLO, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Somalia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Mali as well as the secretaries general of the OAU and the Islamic Conference. Denktas, who is continuing his contacts with the leaders or representatives of various countries and journalists, also had two working luncheons with Turkish President Kenan Evren.

Denktas Remarks Reported

TA170631 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyprus 0500 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Speaking after his meeting with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, President Rauf Denktas recalled that the Turkish Cypriots are living in a country in which the EOKA C has been revived and that a further revival can be expected after peace He added: We cannot gamble with the security of our people. The lifting of the Turkish guarentee, which has prevented the annihilation of the Turkish Cypriot community and the destruction of the island's independence, cannot be an issue for negotiations. We have examined Kiprianou's statement to the effect that he is in favor of international guarentees and that the guarantors should not have a right to intervene. He should be well aware that we will not give him the 1963 atmosphere he is seeking. We can discuss the issue of a Cyprus purged of troops only within the framework of a satisfactory national guarantee and under equal conditions with Kiprianou. Kiprianou, who has not purged his own community of concealed weapons, should, above all, dismantle the armies within his own community. Papandreou's influence on the Cyprus issue could not have been worse. Kiprianou is a man lost between AKEL and Papandreou. If he grasps our hand extended in the name of peace he might find a balance.

I have reiterated my proposal for a summit meeting without any preconditions. Perez de Cuellar will continue his good-will mission. There is no new factor in the Greek Cypriot proposals. They have represented the 1960 regime after having altered it to our disadvantage. It they have a proposal to put forward, let them come to the negotiating table within the framework we have agreed upon.

Our efforts to introduce our state are the natural result of our existence. No one can prevent us. The existence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus [TRNC] is a positive and healthy phenomenon which will stimulate the solution of the Cyprus problem. The Greek Cypriots should view the TRNC as such.

The UN Secreatry general has reiterated that he will continue his good-will mission with sincerity and has asked us to express his grief over the death of Dr Kucuk to the Turkish Cypriot people.

Foreign Affairs and Defense Minister Necati Munir Ertekun and the ministry's director of political affairs and information, Osman Ertug, were also present at the Denktas-Perez meeting, which was held at the villa assigned to the UN secretary general in Casablanca.

'Arafat Meets Iraq Envoy

JN171202 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Casablanca, 17 Jan (INA) — RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim received at his place of residence in Casablanca today PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. They discussed items listed on the Islamic summit's agenda, topics related to the current Arab situation, and the means for confronting the imperialist and Zionist challenges.

'Arafat expressed thanks and appreciation to President Saddam Husayn for Iraq's stand, and great support for the PLO.

Ibrahim stressed Iraq's firm stand toward supporting the PLO in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative. He also expressed Iraq's concern about the PLO's will and independent decisionmaking.

Attending the meeting on the Iraqi side were Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and 'Abdallah Fadil, minister of awqaf and religious affairs. Attending on the Palestinian side were Khalid al-Hasan and Faruq Qaddumi, Fatah Central Committee members.

Bahraini Amir Meets 'Arafat

GF171550 Manama WAKH in English 1518 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Casablanca, 17 Jan (WAKH) — His Highness the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received here today PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting reviewed issues on the Islamic summit's agenda.

Kuwaiti Amir Meets Qatari Envoy

LD171747 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] A meeting was held today in Casablanca between His Highness the amir of Kuwait and the amir of fraternal Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani. During the meeting they discussed bilateral relations and the Islamic summit agenda.

YAR President Meets Bourguiba, 'Arafat

GF172032 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, today visited his struggling Brother Habib Bourguiba, president of the Tunisian Republic, at his residence in Casablanca. During the meeting, they held consultations on many issues concerning the agenda of the fourth Islamic summit conference, in addition to bilateral relations and means of strengthening them.

President 'Ali Abdallah Salih also received at his residence in Casablanca yesterday Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Army. During the meeting, Palestinian issues and situation in the Arab arena were discussed. They also held consultations on issues of the agenda of the fourth Islamic summit conference.

Syria's Khaddam, 'Arafat Reportedly Meet

JN171726 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1716 GMT 17 Jan 84

[George Nawfal dispatch from Casablanca]

[Excerpt] We have just learned from Moroccan sources that the anticipated meeting between Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Yasir 'Arafat took place today. However, no details were revealed on what took place in this meeting due to the participation of Khaddam and 'Arafat in the Islamic summit meetings, which are currently in progress.

MAP Reports Meeting

LD172041 Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Casablanca, 17 Jan (MAP) — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO executive Committee, had talks in Casablanca on Tuesday with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, who is leading his country's delegation to the proceedings of the fourth Islamic summit. According to the Kuwaiti daily *AL-WATAN*, continuing a dispatch from its correspondents in Casablanca, certain delegations of the Gulf are undertaking efforts toward a Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation.

Reports of Meeting Denied

LD171823 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1807 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Casablanca, 17 Jan (KUNA) — A responsible source has denied reports of a meeting held here today between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The source told KUNA that this report was completely devoid of truth and denied that 'Arafat had had any contact with the Syrian foreign minister.

Perez Calls for Mideast Conference

LD172209 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1625 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Casablanca, 17 Jan (SPA) — UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced today that he has called for a conference on the Middle East problem in which the permament UN Security Council member-states and concerned parties of the region will participate.

In a statement which was announced today in Casablanca, Perez explained that if the UN Security Council approves this suggestion, on 15 March he will submit a report to the Council on the results he has reached and the reactions of the countries to which an invitation to participate in the conference was addressed.

Perez on Dialogue With Iraq, Iran

JN171442 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Casablanca, 17 Jan (INA) — UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has stressed that he will continue dialogue with Iraq and Iran in order to end the conflict between them.

In a statement to the INA team here today, he said that his meetings with the heads of the states participating in the fourth Islamic summit resulted in a unanimous agreement to exert all efforts to stop the war. He indicated that his recent meeting with RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim was useful on the level of continuing the dialogue aimed at ending the conflict. He said: He communicated to me new and useful ideas about this issue.

He pointed out that Turkish President Kenan Evren expressed a desire to take part in the efforts being exerted to end the war. He hoped that Turkey will play an effective role in these efforts.

On the results of the efforts exerted by the Islamic good offices committee, which is headed by Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, Javier Perez de Cuellar said: I believe that the committee has not failed in its mission, but stopped its efforts for the time being.

Regarding the proposed plans to solve the Palestine question, the UN secretary general said that the Fes, Reagan, and Egyptian-French plans should be discussed at the Security Council in order to work out a unified plan that can solve this question and be acceptable to all sides.

Arab People's Congress Cable

LD171457 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The permanent secretariat of the Arab Peoples Congress, which is holding its first meeting for 1984 in Tripoli, has sent a cable to the heads of the countries participating in the fourth Islamic summit conference in Rabat [as heard] calling on the conference to challenge the assault and the plans of imperialism and Zionism in the region which constitute a new campaign aimed not at the Arab nation alone but at all Islamic Peoples. In its cable the secretariat demanded that the conference resolutions be concerned with the grave events being witnessed in the Arab and Islamic arenas.

Palestinian Factions' Cable

JN172043 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Casablanca — The Palestinian resistance factions have sent a memorandum to the fourth Islamic summit conference now convening in Casablanca, urging the Islamic kings and heads of state to completely and decisively condemn Yasir 'Arafat's move of meeting with the head of the Camp David regime. The memorandum said this step is a violation of the PLO's national legitimacy, the Palestine National Charter, and the various PNC resolutions.

The Palestinian resistance factions asserted that this step deprives 'Arafat of his legitimacy in the PLO. The memorandum underlined the Palestinian resistance factions' rejection of any attempt to encroach on the PLO's unity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people or to represent these people through any other slogan, whether it be the revival of the so-called Jordanian Parliament or any other agreements that contradict the Palestinian National Charter. The Palestinian resistance factions also reject any agreements that have been reached between 'Arafat or others, with either the Jordanian or Egyptian officials, or with both sides together.

The memorandum called for condemning the attempts to restore the Camp David regime to the ICO ranks before this regime abandons the Camp David agreements. The memorandum asserted that any Palestinian side calling for or supporting this move does not represent the opinion and voice of either the Palestinian revolution, the PLO, or the Palestinian people.

PNC Speaker's Letter

LD162143 Kuwait KUNA in English 1901 GMT 16 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus, jan 16 (KUNA) — The speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC) and a number of groupings within the PLO announced Monday that they would not accept any decision taken by any Palestinian leader which violates the policy of the PNC. Two letters addressed respectively to Moroccan King Hassan, who chairs the ICO summit in Casablanca, and leaders of Islamic states participating in the conference, stressed that representation of the PLO must remain within the limits of the Council's decisions.

The first letter, from PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum to King Hassan, said that no Palestinian official or PNC member, of whatever rank, had the right to agree on any policy moves that had not been approved by the council. In particular, he said, Council policy explicitly rejected the Reagan plan and the Camp David accords, and adhered to the Rabat Arab summit policy which confirmed the status of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

"This," he explained "means that nobody outside the PLO can be empowered to speak in its name."

All the PLO's constituent groups and many PNC members had informed Al-Fahum of their total adherence to this policy and their denunciation of any violation of it, the letter said. In particular, the PNC speaker said that they had "expressed that they would welcome the return of Egypt to the Arab and Islamic fold after it sheds the Camp David Accords, but not before."

Meanwhile, the leaders of five groups within the PLO, alongside leaders of the faction of the mainstream Fatah movement opposed to Yasir 'Arafat's leadership, announced Monday that they had stressed the same points in a letter to Islamic heads of state attending the Casablanca summit.

The letter was signed by the heads of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Popular Struggle Front, "As-Sa'iqah", the "General Command" group, the Palestine

Liberation Front and Fatah opposition leader Nimr Salih (Abu Salih).

The letter denounced "any attempt to return Egypt to the ICO before it renounces Camp David and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty."

"Any Palestinian voice which calls for this or supports this", it continued, "does not express the opinion or the will of the Palestinian revolution or the PLO."

The groupings reiterated their adherence to the unity of the PLO and their rejection of any attempt to compromise this "under any slogan such as the restoration of the Jordanian Parliament, or any agreement contravening the Palestine National Charter reached between Mr. Yasir 'Arafat or others with Jordanian or Egyptian officials."

Such moves would constitute "a step on the road to the implementation of Camp David and the Reagan plan, which have both been denounced at the Palestinian, Arab and Islamic levels", the letter said.

Morocco's Boucetta on Summit

PM171629 Jidda 'Ukaz in Arabic 15 Jan 84 p 8

[Interview with Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta by *'UKAZ* own correspondent in Rabat — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: How do you evaluate the progress of Islamic action in the light of your experience at the third Islamic summit in Mecca which was distinguished by the historic Mecca declaration?

Answer: We always look forward to achieving greater support and effectiveness for joint Islamic action. In fact the Mecca declaration had a great effect in unifying the Islamic world's view of itself and of the world and events in general, particularly since it covered many issues. But unfortunately so far there has been no need to the present disputes, conflicts, and wars, especially the internal disputes between the Islamic countries themselves.

Question: In view of the importance of the present Islamic summit in the light the existing conditions in the Islamic world, do you expect the present summit to deal decisively with the many issues?

Answer: The conditions facing the Islamic nation and the events in the Arab arena in particular demand unified and firm stands in dealing both with situations inside the Islamic bloc and with others. We must adopt fundamental resolutions, but in the absence of such resolutions there should at least be unified policies because the opponents we are facing and the difficulties we are encountering necessitate unifying the ranks.

Question: After the 12th Arab summit in Fes approved and adopted the Arab peace plan, do you expect this plan to be upheld and developed at the coming Islamic summit?

Answer: If we look at the matter in depth, action within the Islamic framework will be regarded of great benefit, even with respect to the special Arab issues. I do not wish to go into detail on this subject because Arab nationalism has certain negative aspects for the Muslims since the rest of the Muslims believe that their contribution should not be contrary to that of the Arab world. [as published] Therefore, we would like the Islamic community to see that its work for the general causes and the Arab causes is effective, basic, and important. We believe that the support the Islamic community has given to Arab action has been very important.

We believe that African and Asian public opinion has a great effect in the international arena in supporting the Arabs. This is important.

Question: Do you expect a heated debate at the fourth Islamic summit over the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan?

Answer: The world Islamic countries have adopted clear and frank stands against the Soviet Union from the first day the Soviet armies occupied Afghanistan. That is, with the exception of reluctant stands by a very small minority. The Islamic stand has been firm in all the fields. I would like to point here to the total solidarity at the recent UN General Assembly session. The Afghan resistance is still standing fast and the Islamic countries that have good resources are supporting the Afghans. The demand is still to establish an Islamic Afghan state.

Question: If Iran fails to attend the fourth Islamic summit do you expect the adoption of a unified Islamic stand against such failure?

Answer: I do not think that the matter will be dealt with in this manner. We will be very sorry if Iran does not attend because it is a member of the Islamic Secretariat and has been invited to attend. But some of the Iranian officals believe that some, if not all, the Islamic conference states support Iraq, or, rather, demand an end to the bloodshed among Muslims and call for an end to this war. According to what I haved heard Iran still insists on not halting the war unless it dictates its terms to Iraq. This is the main issue. We will be very sorry for Iran's failure to attend as an Islamic state invited by the Secretariat. We hope that Iran will attend this summit and the Iranian officials will understand that halting the war is in the interest of the Muslims as well as of Iraq and Iran.

PLF Damascus Offices Raided; Official Kidnapped

JN171248 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Louis Faris Dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Important developments have taken place in Damascus during the last 24 hours on the level of the Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF].

'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim, member of the PLF Political Bureau, has announced at a press conference that four PLF Central Committee members have been dismissed from the front because

they have secretly left for Tunis and joined Yasir 'Arafat. The four are: Muhammad Zaydan, alias Abu al-'Abbas, 'Ali Ishaq, 'Umar Sinbi, and Khalid 'Abd ar-Rahman.

'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim stressed that 15 out of the 19 members of the PLF Central Committee had adopted this decision.

In a telephone contact with our radio, Abu al-'Abbas, one of the PLF Political Bureau members and one of those who were dismissed, told our radio that at dawn today an armed group led by 'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim stormed the house of PLF Secretary General Tal'at Ya'qub, kidnapped him, and took him to an unknown destination. Tal'at Ya'qub lives in the Al-Yarmuk refugee camp in Damascus.

Abu al-'Abbas added that this armed group had also forcibly occupied the PLF offices. Palestinian sources in Damascus, however, said they believe that Tal'at Ya'qub may have joined 'Arafat's opponents in adopting these decisions. [as heard]

Nothing has been issued denying or confirming these reports either by Tal'at Ya'qub or by 'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim and his comrades in view of the difficulty in reaching them.

Syria Blamed for Attack

JN171320 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] In a telephone contact with our radio from Tunis, Abu al-'Abbad, deputy secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF], stated the following: The attack which 'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim, in cooperation with Syrian intelligence elements, carried out against our comrades and offices in Damascus as well as the storming of PLF Secretary General Tal'at Ya'qub's house and opening fire at him are part of the Syrian-Libyan plan to contain the independent Palestinian decisionmaking and split the PLO.

PFLP, DFLP Denounce Attack

JN171922 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The Palestinian circles expressed concern over the abduction of Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF], by the front's opposition elements. The abduction, which took place in Damascus, prompted the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine to issue a statement denouncing the method of confiscating the people's freedom, attacking offices, and seizing posts. The statement calls on the PLF's leaders and elements to solve their internal differences through democratic dialogue.

PLF Official Reportedly Arrested

JN171747 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1542 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Recorded message from unidentified radio correspondent]

[Excerpt] The so-called 'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim, member of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF], has carried out a dissident movement against the PLF in favor of Syria and the gang of Fatah dissidents. Leading a group of his loyalists, who are supported directly by Syrian intelligence, Ghanim last night stormed a number of the PLF offices in Damascus and also a number of the houses of the PLF leaders. PLF Secretary General Tal'at Ya'qub, his escorts, and a number of the PLF cadres and leaders were arrested.

This morning, Ghanim's gang released one of brother Tal'at Ya'qub's escorts and asked him to report what he had seen. The escort said that Ya'qub was subjected to severe beating and torture and that his health is now in danger.

PLF sources have told our radio that the so-called 'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim had carried out this coup in favor of the Syrian regime and within the Syrian activity against the PLO's legitimacy.

This afternoon, we received a statement issued by the PLF saying: Brother 'Ali Ishaq, member of the PLF Secretariat General and Political Bureau, has made the following statement:

Since yesterday, armed elements led by 'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim, in cooperation with the Fatah dissident elements, had been storming the PLF offices in Damascus and the houses of the members of the PLF Political Bureau and Central Committee, including the house of the secretary general, in order to force the members of the command in Damascus to declare their support for the Syrian-Libyan dissident movement, which has reached a dead end due to the awareness of the revolution's cadres and the Palestinian masses.

The PLF statement continues: The so called 'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim has planned with the Fatah dissidents, who have paved the way to Libya for him, to utilize the abnormal conditions in the PLF to force it to declare a dissident movement. This is an attempt to save the Libyan-Syrian plan, in collusion with some Palestinian parties, from the failure that it has reached, by such statements and acts. Ghanim represents only himself. The PLF command is currently watching with concern the developments in the matter and will declare necessary measures according to these developments, the PLF statement ends.

Arrest Denied

JN172004 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1940 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus, 17 Jan (SANA) — 'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim, a member of the Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF] Political

Bureau and its secretary, refuted the reports claiming that PLF Secretary General Tal'at Ya'qub has been arrested. In a statement today, Ghanim said that news agencies reported that PLF Secretary General Tal'at Ya'qub was arrested. 'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim stressed that this report is untrue and that Tal'at Ya'qub is continuing his work as usual following the plan announced by the PLF to dismiss Abu al-'Abbas and his deviating clique from the Front. 'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim expressed the hope that the news agencies will strive for accuracy in order to preserve their credibility and truth.

Phalangists Attack PLO Beirut Office

GF172006 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] A Phalangist sectarian group attacked the PLO office in West Beirut yesterday evening with rocket shells and machine guns, resulting in the wounding of one of the Lebanese soldiers guarding the office. A Lebanese security source said that armed men suddenly stopped in front of the PLO office on the corner of Mazra'ah Street in West Beirut at 2015 yesterday and launched an RPG rocket at the office and then opened fire with machine guns. The source said that a Lebanese soldier was wounded and the first floor window was broken and some material losses were sustained. The PLO office has not been operating for almost a year since Lebanese authorities occupied it, but this attack is a symbolic aggressive act against the PLO office.

'Arafat Expects Imminent PNC Meeting

JN171756 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has stated that the PNC will soon hold an important meeting to discuss what the PLO has been subjected to recently. In a press interview published in Paris today, Abu 'Ammar added that the PLO Executive Committee has adopted a decision in this regard and that contacts are under way with the PNC members to hold the meeting in Algiers. He added that Algerian President Bendjedid was reassured him that Algeria will exert all its efforts to guarantee a normal PNC session. Abu 'Ammar added that he expects the Islamic conference now convening in Casablanca to further support the Palestine question. Regarding his anticipated visit to France, Abu 'Ammar said that this visit and expected meeting with President Mitterrand will serve the issue of peace.

'Arafat To Visit Senegal 'Shortly'

LD171737 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat told Senegalese reporters in Casablanca that he will shortly be visiting Senegal. In a statement after his meeting with Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, he said their discussions dealt with strengthening fraternal and friendly relations between the Palestinian and Senegalese peoples and that he is sure of President Abdou Diouf's support for the rights of the Palestinian people and their legitimate struggle.

PLO Official Leaves for Baghdad 16 Jan

JN170950 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Jan 84 p 26

[Text] Amman — 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, member of the PLO Executive Committee and of the Palestinian side to the joint committee for bolstering the Palestinian people's steadfastness, left Amman for Baghdad yesterday evening to hold contacts with the Iraqi officials on the latest developments of the Palestinian cause. The Palestinian official will also discuss ways to facilitate the marketing of agricultural products from the West Bank in fraternal Iraq.

'Arafat Interviewed on Egypt, PLO Affairs

PM161421 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 14-20 Jan 84 pp 12-15

[Interview with PLO executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by 'Imad ad-Din Adib and Salih Qallab in Tunis — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: At the press conference you held in Cairo after meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak we heard that you invited him to pray at the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Is this merely an emotional and poetic invitation or does it have some realistic basis and political significance?

Answer: I did invite President Mubarak to pray at the Al-Aqsa Mosque and, as the Holy Koran says, we will enter the mosque. In the name of God the merciful and the compassionate: "And they shall enter the mosque as they did the first time." I have often said things that nobody believed but which events proved to be correct. Before the south Lebanon war and the Beirut epic I said that the Israelis would reach Ad-Damur and Khaldah but nobody believed me.

Question: Pardon me, but what you are saying now may be regarded by some as literary prose because as far as military power is concerned the Palestinian revolution, after its recent exodus from Tripoli, has lost the ground for direct combat with the Israeli enemy. Another point is that you base your views on a deterioration on the other side, not on a positive development in your own power.

Answer: I radically disagree with you. I was away from my homeland when I was in Amman, Damascus, Beirut, Tripoli, and Algiers, just as I am now in Tunis. It is not a question of geography at all. It is not a question of geographical proximity. I am far away as long as I am far from Jerusalem.

Question: You still have not answered my question, Abu 'Ammar. Is your invitation to President Mubarak to pray at the Al-Aqsa Mosque based on any political grounds as far as you are concerned or as far as President Mubarak is concerned?

Answer: The fact that I said it in Cairo with President Mubarak beside me means that I was not reciting poetry. I said it to underscore the shape of political developments in the coming phase and what the region may be like in the near future.

Question: Abu 'Ammar, as they say in colloquial Egyptian, you

are "hiding" something and only you have inside knowledge of what happened in Egypt. What is the story?

Answer: I have told my brothers in the Central Committee everything.

Question: You mean they know everything, Abu 'Ammar?

Answer: Yes.

Question: You still have not answered my question. Did your visit to Egypt achieve anything specific? Is this feeling of confidence you are demonstrating after the visit justifiable?

Abu 'Ammar was silent. He stared at the floor and then, making an effort to be calm and in carefully chosen words, he said: Do you know why I feel confident? I will tell you why. Our region has recently been the scene of what we can describe as the most dangerous plot in its modern history. It is a U.S.-Israeli plot. It is the plot which Kissinger spoke about, the plot to "balkanize the region." The purpose of my visit to Egypt was to promote coordination and harmony between the Egyptian and Palestinian positions to confront the balkanization policy which relies on what I call the sectarian rulers in the region. I went to Egypt to rebuild the bridge they tried to destroy, namely the Egyptian bridge. I found that the Egyptian bridge is willing to let our people pass over it toward the recovery of their territory. Only Egypt can stop this sectarian plot. That is why Egypt is important for the restoration of the balance.

Question: Balance between whom, Abu 'Ammar?

Answer: Between the masses of our Arab nation and the rulers of the sects.

Question: Well, then, permit me, Abu 'Ammar....

Answer (Interrupting with profound zeal): Let me finish. It is a U.S.-Israeli plot and it is perfectly clear. Take what happened in Lebanon. The Israelis say that their plan is to set up sectarian statelets in a confederation. The American idea was to partition Lebanon into sectarian cantons within a federation but, following the violence that occurred in southern, central, and northern Lebanon, the Americans relented and accepted the Israeli theory, with the approval of an Arab party. It is perfectly clear to me.

Question: Permit me, Abu 'Ammar, but some of your supporters objected to your Cairo visit, and for logical reasons, in their opinion. They argue that when you left Tripoli your Arab adversaries were in a weak position and the dissidents had no voice, but your visit to Egypt has placed you in a weak position, has given your Arab enemies an opportunity to attack you, and has boosted the dissidents' claims against you. What is your opinion?

(Abu 'Ammar took his military cap and put it aside) Answer: What does that mean? Do you mean that the visit has strengthened those people? The visit has given strength to whom? What do these people represent and whom do they represent? At most they represent a grouping of paralysis. That grouping remained silent throughout the massacre of Palestinians in the Al-Baddawi and Al-Barid camps. That grouping saw our daughters in the Al-Baddawi and Al-Barid camps taken forcibly to entertain the special forces of a regular Arab army. (Abu 'Ammar looked very angry as he said these words) That grouping, which kept quiet about all these things, has no right to stand up and talk now. Do you know this story about our daughters? Of course not. Nobody in the Arab world does, but I do. I saw it happen in Tripoli. That is why I will never keep quiet about it or about any other incident. I just want to ask: Are those Palestinians who saw all this and kept quiet their own masters? Do you know that I invited them to meet with me but they did not come? Do you know why? Because they are not the masters of their decisions.

Question: But it has been said that the visit lost you the support of some reluctant or neutral forces such as the Democratic Front [DFLP] and the Popular Front [PFLP].

Answer: First of all, I have not lost their support. Second, I have won Egypt which represents more than one-third of the Arab nation. So, who is the loser, me or them?

Question: You have said that Mubarak is not As-Sadat, but do you believe that Mubarak is capable of abrogating the Camp David agreement?

Answer: I say, and my brothers in the Palestinian leadership share my view, that Mubarak is not As-Sadat. Furthermore, all factions of the Egyptian Nationalist Movement have alway said to us: Do not abandon Egypt. Over the past year Egypt has supported the PLO and the Palestinian people's national rights at the Security Council, the Geneva conference, and all other international forums. When Egypt supports the Geneva declaration calling for a Palestinian state, self-determination, and repatriation, it means that Egypt is in practice against Camp David and against the autonomy concept. Also, President Mubarak's announcement that the Egyptian ambassador's return to Israel would depend on the results of a public referendum is in fact another step against Camp David. We must also remember that there was less normalization between Egypt and Israel in 3 years than between Israel and Marj 'Uyun in 3 months. This means that the normalization process has failed and is now frozen.

Question: What about the statements made by Mubarak about adherence to the Camp David agreements and the Reagan plan?

Answer: I must point out something important. Usamah al-Baz made a statement after my meeting with Mubarak in which he said: We have differed with Abu 'Ammar on two issues, namely Camp David and the Reagan plan. Kamal Hasan 'Ali spoke about Fes after meeting with Reagan, and so did Usamah al-Baz and President Mubarak himself. It is common knowledge that the Fes plan calls for an independent Palestinian state.

Question: You and the Palestinian leadership insist that resumption of the dialogue with Jordan will not be on the basis of the Reagan plan. Do the Egyptians agree with this view?

Answer: They have said that the PLO is entitled to its own opinion.

Question: The talks between you and Jordan were suspended at one point. What will be the starting point when the talks are resumed?

Answer: I said when I was under siege and open to martyrdom at any moment that I was for immediate and unconditional resumption of the dialogue with Jordan, but not on the basis of the Reagan plan.

Question: Does this mean that you will start all over again from scratch?

Answer: No, it would be unreasonable to start again from scratch. We have already accomplished much but two points of disagreement remain: the first is that we say that the Fes resolutions should be the basis. They agree but maintain that the Fes resolutions lack the practical mechanism and therefore the Reagan plan should be considered. The second point is related to the interpretation of confederation.

Question: Does your admiration for the Algerian revolution include the formation of a government-in-exile before the revolution triumphs?

Answer: I have long been saying, repeatedly, that the question of a government-in-exile depends on the Palestinian leadership, and the Palestinian leadership will take that step when it concludes that such a step is in the interest of the Palestinuan struggle.

Question: When will this decision be made?

Answer: I will not make such a decision unilaterally. It is up to the Palestinian legitimate institutions and leadership.

Question: After all that has happened, what will be the next Palestinian step toward Egypt?

Answer: The next step will be a move toward the Arabs and then we will move at Arab level toward Egypt.

Question: By calling for an Arab summit conference, or through delegations and bilateral contacts?

Answer: Through delegations as well as a summit.

Question: Do you expect that the PLO will be the one to raise the question of Egypt's return to the Arab fold?

Answer: At this point we do not know who will raise that issue, but we will contribute to the efforts at any rate.

Question: The Egyptians have said that they will help the PLO rebuild itself. What have they done in this connection?

Answer: I leave it to you to interpret what Egypt says.

Question: Have they given you bases on the ground?

Answer: I defer interpretation to you.

Question: What are the prospects for relations between you and the United States. Do you expect anything from Washington in 1984?

Answer: I do not believe that they will give the Arabs or the Palestinians anything.

Question: What about the reports about amendments to the Reagan plan?

Answer: The only hope is what the French-Egyptian move at the Security Council may produce.

Question: Has divorce finally taken place between the PLO and the Syrian leadership?

Answer: I had told them that they should grasp the significance of my setting foot on that boat. They should grasp it from the historical, cultural, Arab, Syrian, and Palestinain angles. I left Beirut by virtue of a Sharon decision and I left Tripoli by virtue of a Syrian decision.

Question: Your alliance with the unification movement led by Shaykh Sha'ban gave the impression that you were following a particular religious line.

Answer: The unification movement's forces supported us, especially after the campaign launched against us by the Lebanese communists despite the fact that we had nothing whatsoever to do with what went on between them and the unification movement.

Question: Is it true that you have been influenced by the Muslim Brotherhood line in Egypt, and will you follow that line if a Palestinian state is set up?

Answer: I will follow the PLO line.

Question: The Central Committee's latest statement spoke of the end of one phase and the beginning of another. Does this mean a new formula for Palestinian alliances?

Answer: Such talk is premature.

Question: Will you allow the Palestinian forces that shelled the camps to attend the next meeting of the Palestinian National Council [PNC]?

Answer: This matter will not be decided by me unilaterally. It falls under PNC jurisdiction. As commander of the revolution forces it is within my power to dismiss military personnel, but beyond that it is up to the PNC.

Question: Do you think that democracy will prompt you to meet with those who bombarded you with rocket launchers and artillery?

Answer: Out of respect for the legitimate institution I will make many concessions.

Question: Can you bear to see Ahmad Jibril [leader of Popular

Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command] stand up and have discussions with you at the PNC?

Answer: The first PNC session will discuss the legitimacy of those people. Besides, these people should come so as to face trial by the Palestinian people's representatives.

Question: Have you made a numerical calculation of the balances of power in the PNC?

Answer: Let us wait and see. Everything will become clear in the coming days.

Question: We have heard that attempts are being made, with Egypt's help, to ensure the presence of the PNC members from occupied territory?

Answer: Israel may allow them to leave but it will never let them go back.

Question: Why have you not visited France yet?

Answer: This matter concerns my French friends. I respect their views and I do not want to embarrass them.

Question: Does this mean that you have postponed the visit?

Answer: No date has been set for a visit to speak of postponement. I have an invitation from our friend Marchais but I have not taken it up because I do not want to embarrass the French Government.

Question: What about the United States? We heard that it has laid down conditions for considering any Palestinian plan?

Answer: We also have conditions.

Question: What are your conditions?

Answer: Our condition is that the United States recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Question: If the Americans were to invite you before recognizing your rights, would you accept the invitation?

Answer: The Americans are hostile to our people and rights. There is no hope of a change in their position in the near future.

Question: What do you think of the Soviet attitude?

Answer: Moscow stands uncertain between the Palestinian friend and the Syrian ally. I believe that the Soviet Union is in a dilemma after the recent events.

Question: Are you satisfied with the Soviet attitude?

Answer: How can we ask more of the Soviet Union than it has already done when some Arabs have been plotting against us and when the majority of the Arabs have remained silent?

Question: Did you ask Moscow to participate in the protection?

Answer: Yes.

Question: What was their answer.

Answer: They were of the opinion that their participation would only whet Israel's appetite for crazy adventure.

Question: Are you satisfied with that answer?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Have there been any contacts between you and the Soviets since your departure from Tripoli?

Answer: My brothers in the leadership have had contacts but I had no time. I will, however, hold such contacts in the near future.

Question: Do you agree that the Soviet Union and the United States are in harmony on the question of sharing world influence?

Answer: I do not agree. Anyway, the United States is the arch enemy of the Palestinians whereas the Soviet Union is a top friend.

500 Pro-'Arafat Men Reportedly in Tripoli

NC171327 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has received information that 500 pro-'Arafat Palestinian elements arrived in Tripoli during the last 2 weeks, coming from Al-Biqa' and 'Akkar. They joined the Islamic Unification Movement after having been supplied with forged Lebanese identity cards which Fatah intelligence had left in Tripoli along with the weapons which it gave to Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban.

The information revealed a remarkable activity recently carried out by Fatah intelligence in Al-Biqa'. It has been noticed that the Fatah elements have been paying large sums of money to those harmed by the clashes between 'Arafat's supporters and the dissidents in the Al-Biqa' area. The indemnities paid so far are said to have amounted to 27 million Lebanese pounds. Another 50 million was allocated to rally allies and sympathizers, and to close ranks anew in the form of secret organizations designed to hit Syrian interests in the Al-Biqa' valley.

Kuwaiti Paper on Egyptian Efforts for PNC

GF131704 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 13 Jan 84 pp 1, 22

[Dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpt] *AL-ANBA'* has learned that Israel did not respond positively to the request presented by Egypt to allow 160 Palestinians from the West Bank to attend the meetings of the Palestine National Council [PNC]. Egypt was apprised on that when the Israeli ambassador in Cairo met with Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Israel justified this rejection by pointing out that permitting the Palestinians to take part in the meeting contravenes its positions toward the PLO. Israel also

attributed this to other security reasons.

Commenting on this Israeli position, PNC member Sa'id Kamal told *AL-ANBA'*: "I urge our people and the PNC members in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to reiterate their support for the Palestinian legitimate leadership and for its policies which are based on alleviating the sufferings and ensuring the withdrawal of the occupation forces to enable the PLO to establish an independent state.

Commenting on the step undertaken by the Jordanian monarch to call for the convening of the Parliament, Kamal Hasan 'Ali stated that this step paves the way for the Palestinian representation in the West Bank. He went on to say that if this step attains Palestinian representation that satisfies the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, then this will be beneficial to the dialogue with the PLO.

On his views with regard to what may effect the dialogue between King Husayn and 'Arafat, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: This is a new formula around which the negotiators center. He went on to say that the options are many where some approved the Reagan initiative and others were committed to the Fes resolutions, therefore what is required is to reach a formula that serves as a basis for negotiations and this does not imply having a new initiative.

Acting Secretary General on Pricing Policy
LD171534 Kuwait KUNA in English 1421 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 17 Jan (KUNA) — The OPEC acting secretary general, Dr Fadil al-Jalbi, said that OPEC's oil production will improve during the second half of this year. He warned the industrial countries against exerting pressure to lower the basic price of oil from its current level because in the long run it would harm international interests.

Dr al-Jalbi, in an interview with KUNA today, said that 1984 can be considered to be the end of the recession, and hence OPEC oil production will improve during the second half of this year.

He said that the hope of the oil-producing countries outside OPEC and of the industrial oil-consumming countries is to see "stability" in oil prices and not a lowering of its price below its current level, which is at least $29.

But he warned that OPEC can control the direction of pricing crude oil in the international market if it remains commited to the agreed resolutions on production and pricing.

OMAN

Foreign Minister Comments on Gulf War, Egypt

GF171814 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Muscat, Jan 17, (WAKH) — Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi said that the draft resolution adopted by Islamic foreign ministers concerning the Iraq-Iran war was endorsed by the Islamic summit conference because it paralleled and affirmed U.N. Security Council Resolution No. 540.

In statements to the Omani newspaper *'UMAN*, published here today, Mr. al-Alawi hoped that Iran would respond to the Islamic calls to end the war through peaceful means.

The Omani minister added that the Islamic foreign ministers conference reached a draft resolution concerning the Middle East problem in response to the PLO's desire.

"The resolution is not so different from the previous ones," he said.

On Egypt's return to the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO), Mr al-Alawi expected that the fourth Islamic summit conference would accept a resolution readmitting Egypt to the organization.

Information Minister Ar-Rawwas Leaves for Cairo

GF171410 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1040 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Muscat, 17 Jan (WAKH) — Omani Information Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawwas left Muscat for Cairo today on a visit to Egypt that will last several days, at the invitation of Egyptian Minister of State for Information Muhammad Safwat ash-Sharif.

The aim of the Omani minister's visit is to strengthen bilateral relations within the framework of the protocol signed by the two countries in March 1983.

During his talks in Cairo, the Omani minister will discuss the strengthening of cooperation between MENA and the OMANI NEWS AGENCY. To accomplish this, he will be meeting with Muhammad 'Abd al-Jawad, the chairman of the board of directors of MENA.

PDRY

Supreme People's Council Session Resumes

GF171846 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The Presidium of the Supreme People's Council resumed its session today under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

During its session this morning, the council listened to remarks by its members on the plan for the state's 1984 general budget, the 1984 development, economic, and social plan, the 1984 estimated financial budget for public sector establishments and draft plans, and the 1984 import and export plan.

The members of the council affirmed the importance of improving the overall performance of the economic establishments, reducing general expenses, making use of all capabilities, increasing work production, using moral means and financial encouragement with workers so that they may achieve increased production, and increasing the participation of workers and laborers in the implementation of the economic plans and programs. The council also listened to the comments of the ministers concerning the members' discussions and remarks on these projects.

The council will resume its session tomorrow morning to discuss the remaining items on its agenda.

SAUDI ARABIA

Consul in Lebanon Kidnapped in Beirut

'Intensive' Contacts Being Held

LD171212 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Lebanese security sources in Beirut said today that the Saudi consul in Lebanon has been kidnapped by unknown armed men as he traveled to the embassy premises in West Beirut today. The sources added that the armed men opened fire at the consul's car, wounding his driver. They then kidnapped the consul, Husayn Farrash, from inside the car.

SPA has learned that intensive contacts are taking place between Riyadh and Beirut with a view to securing quick results with regard to this incident and to ensure the safe return of the consul.

Statement Issued on Abduction

LD172326 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2255 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Jan (SPA) — A responsible source has made the following statement in reply to an inquiry by an SPA reporter on the kidnapping of the Saudi consul in Beirut:

The government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia cannot but express its strong condemnation and deep pain at the incident involving one of its sons, who was enlisted to do his duty in fraternal Lebanon, and would like to emphasize and make it absolutely clear that such terrorist methods which some elements who work in the dark regularly employ — whatever their identity or affiliation — will not undermine the Kingdom's firm conviction and unwavering belief in continuing its earnest policy; a policy built on ethical foundations that emanate from its true Islamic and Arab values, a policy that also bases its conduct in accordance with the legitimate principles and international codes of conduct in safeguarding its national interests and serving the causes of our Arab and Islamic nation.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is confident that the brothers in Lebanon, the president, the government and the people, will not spare any effort in securing the return of the Saudi consul so that he can continue to carry out his duties and serve the interests of the two fraternal countries.

Mediation Role in Algeria-Morocco War Renewed

LD171256 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1056 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Casablanca, 17 Jan (KUNA) -- KUNA's correspondent has learned that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be renewing its mediation in the Saharan war between Algeria and Morocco. An Arab diplomatic source has informed KUNA's correspondent in Morocco that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be working with the United Arab Emirates in the matter to find a peaceful solution to the Sahara dispute.

KUNA's correspondent has learned that Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi [Algerian foreign affairs minister] is to hold direct discussions with senior Moroccan officials concerning the developments in the situation in the Sahara.

Syria's Al-Asad Sends Greetings to King Fahd

LD172232 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1843 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Jan (SPA) — Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has telephoned His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

They had a friendly conversation, during which he wished His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz health and success, and wished success to the participants at the conference of Arab and Islamic countries' leaders.

Saudi Minister Meets With U.S. Senator Moynihan

LD171408 Riyadh SPA in English 1208 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 17, SPA — Visiting U.S. Senator Daniel Moynihan and his accompanying delegation conferred here yesterday with Saudi Information Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir on the current situation in Lebanon and the Kingdom's efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

'UKAZ Editor Comments on Islamic Summit

PM171559 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 15 Jan 84 p 3

[Political editor "Observer's View" column: "What Do We Want From the Islamic Summit?"]

[Excerpt] What do we want from the Islamic summit? This is the question that is urgently being asked now, as leaders of the Islamic countries are arriving in sisterly Morocco where the summit will begin its meetings in Casablanca tomorrow.

The Islamic arena abounds with numerous problems and crises, some of which are complex and serious. Muslims in both the East and West look to this summit with the hope that the meeting of the Islamic leaders will be an opportunity to discuss the situation and the problems of the nation, and be a good beginning for adopting suitable resolutions that will strengthen Islamic solidarity and put an end to conspiracies and designs against this nation.

The Islamic summit is taking place at a critical stage in the history of the Arab and Islamic nations, as the situation is deteriorating in many places, tension is prevailing, and conflict is taking place in many locations in this area, which is the heart of the Islamic world and the world's most strategic point. This makes the Islamic summit a historic opportunity of vital importance for discussing ways to prevent further deterioration in the situation, and examining the obstacles to a comprehensive Islamic solution to the problems that burden our Islamic nation and restrict its ability and effectiveness in dealing with aggression against it, including its ability to confront major challenges.

If we are to deal realistically and logically with the present problems, we should not expect immediate and instant solutions to all the problems, because the Casablanca summit does not possess a "magic wand."

We fully realize that the problems that top the Islamic summit agenda are not easy or superficial. The Middle East problem, the Palestinian problem, the Iraq-Iran war, the question of Jerusalem, and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan are all explosive and thorny issues which have exhausted and continue to exhaust much effort and potential. Therefore, we do not expect them to be solved overnight.

Nevertheless, at the same time we believe that the Islamic nation has the resources and the capabilities to enable it to change this painful situation in the Islamic arena. But for our efforts to bear fruit and be effective we must first of all and primarily concentrate on strengthening the march of Islamic solidarity and coordinate joint action in the various political, economic, military, and other fields. At the same time, we must work diligently and sincerely to eliminate the negative aspects hindering the utilization of this nation's resources, restricting the effectiveness of its actions, and preventing the unification of its ranks and its voice.

UAE

Government's Financial Situation Said 'Critical'

GF171326 Doha QNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 17 Jan 84 (QNA) — It was reported here today that the UAE Federal National Council has asked the government to discuss two important topics on the country's economic and security situation.

In its issue today, *AL-KHALIJ* reports that this request was made in a memorandum sent by the Federal National Council. The memorandum states that the maintenance of state security and ensuring calm and stability is one of the tasks that require the utmost priority.

The memorandum states that the financial situation of the UAE federal government is critical, and that this has had an effect on

all aspects of the country's economic and social life. The financial situation has also had political repercussions at home and abroad.

In its session on 14 January, the Supreme Federal Council unanimously approved a proposal to debate the government's economic and security policies.

Mubarak Confers With Political Leaders 17 Jan

Political Developments Discussed

NC171340 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning held a political meeting attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, People's Assembly Speaker Dr Kamil Laylah, Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, and the ministers. The meeting was also attended by the members of the NDP General Secretariat and the party's governorate secretaries.

The meeting falls within the context of President Husni Mubarak's meetings with party leaders to discuss developments in the political sphere on the internal and external levels, and to review party activities in the various governorates of the Republic.

Safwat ash-Sharif, minister of state for information, has stated that during the meeting President Mubarak affirmed that Egypt will continue to support the Arab issues and will not allow anyone to encroach on them. The president, Ash-Sharif added, said Egypt will continue the peace march and abide by the Camp David accords. President Mubarak said Egypt will never give concessions to either East or West, adding that Egypt's pan-Arab policy is clear.

On the domestic level, Ash-Sharif said the president noted the party will intensify its activities. President Mubarak said he will himself inspect work sites in the various governorates.

Safwat ash-Sharif on Meeting

NC171553 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has reaffirmed that Egypt supports Arab issues with all efforts. He said Egypt is giving all it can in tempo with its position. The president warned that if Arabs fail to unify their ranks to reactivate the Palestinian problem before the end of the year [as received], the situation will be extremely difficult.

President Mubarak reiterated Egypt's support for Iraq, adding:- We support Iraq to preserve its pan-Arab character. We are maintaining constant contacts with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

This was stated by Safwat ash-Sharif, minister of state for information, following President Mubarak's meeting today with the NDP General Secretariat and party secretaries in the governorates.

At the conclusion of the 2-hour meeting, Safwat ash-Sharif said President Mubarak touched on the Arab situation, saying: We support Arab issues with all our efforts. We give boundlessly for the sake of our Arab nation and the Palestinian cause. We may not be giving financial support, but, on the other hand, we have our culture and capabilities that place us at the forefront. President Mubarak affirmed that Egypt will remain the leading state in the region whether some like it or not. This will be achieved through our work and efforts. We will never bow; we will always have lofty heads to build Arab Egypt.

The information minister said the president emphasized that Egypt has given all it could to the Arab nation and will continue to do so. Egypt, the president added, will not allow anyone to encroach on its policy. We will focus our attention on building and developing Egypt, and elevating its standard in every sphere, because this will render Egypt a greater economic force. This has been confirmed by assessments of all specialists and numerous studies centers' reports. In this connection, the president said: As president of Egypt I have done all I can that is compatible with Egypt's position. There is no room for those who exploit the people.

In his statement, Safwat ash-Sharif noted that President Mubarak touched on the peace march and Camp David accord. Reacting to the voices that advocate the abrogation of Camp David and those that exploit pan-Arab interests, the president affirmed Egypt adheres to the peace strategy and Egyptian will.

Safwat ash-Shafir said the president stressed that the people are leading a prosperous life under the canopy of peace. However, this will not be the case in a state of war, because in that event all capabilities will be employed. The president said peace has paved the way for development, construction, reform, and progress in the service of the present and future.

The information minister said the president noted: Let everyone know that the interests of the Egyptian people should top all considerations. He said: Let us focus our attention on the development of our country in the service of our people. Let us bypass the problems, break loose of the bottleneck, and work for the future, because Egypt will endure while people will vanish.

Safwat ash-Sharif said the president affirmed that Egypt will never be an arena for struggle between external powers.

The president then answered a number of questions, saying: Our policy is clear both on the pan-Arab and party levels. We will give no concessions to either East or West. We will deal with our friends on an equal footing. Our relations with the superpowers will never be at the expense of Egypt's and its people's dignity. Our relations will be governed by the Egyptian will. I will never allow anyone to encroach on our sovereignty, whether from far or near.

Answering questions, the president said: I have been acquainted with the party's moves and activity during the past weeks when I and party leaders and ministers visited various governorates. The party will continue to promote and widen its activity. It belongs to the masses who are rallying around it.

The president noted that the party which builds for the future is that which represents stability and affiliation and ensures democracy. Leaders of the majority party must always be present with the masses and participate in resolving their problems.

The president said the NDP is not inclined to the right or left, but is the party of Egyptian nationalism.

Safwat ash-Sharif said the president stated that the government must draft radical economic and social solutions in accordance with the 5-year plan. This will take some time but will bring an end to the problems by creating scientific solutions for them. However, the government is for the people who brought the majority party to power and who gave it their confidence. There are urgent problems and those relating to routine procedures which must be settled to alleviate the people's suffering. Ash-Sharif added that President Mubarak said party activity is one of giving, work, and devotion for the sake of all and society's interest.

The president said he would resume his visits to the governorates to inspect the implementation of projects there.

The president added: We welcome the opinion of others provided they are purely Egyptian. We will not accept other opinions imported in favor of a foreign state. All views must interact from within Egyptian reality and nationalism.

Regarding the election of party deputies for the People's Assembly elections, the president said nominations to the next People's Assembly will be governed by party principles, values, and commitment and by the candidate's popularity, capability, and extent of his cohesion with the masses.

Regarding the solution of the problems of professional workers in Qina and Bani Suwayf governorates, the president issued his directives approving the opening of an industrial development bank in the two governorates through public participation to help professionals in both governorates.

Ash-Sharif said the president's meeting today comes within the framework of his meetings with the NDP leadership to appraise the party's moves, discuss the future plan and action, and outline the questions of domestic and foreign national action.

At the outset of the meeting, President Mubarak said: As NDP president I will continue to uphold the banner of the party leadership and its principles. I hope no one will believe the rumors stirred up from time to time about my leaving the NDP leadership. I will continue as party leader and carry the banner of its leadership and principles. I will also exercise my authority as the president of the Republic, who must assume the responsibility in accordance with the Constitution and who must rule for the interest of the people regardless of the difficulties that may be encountered.

Omani Information Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC171607 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA) — Omani Information Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawwas arrived in Cairo this afternoon on an official visit of several days to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, the Omani minister highly praised Egyptian-Omani relations, describing them as an example that should be followed by the fraternal countries. He added Egyptian and Omani sides will discuss existing bilateral information cooperation within the framework of the information protocol, and will attempt to make that protocol consistent with the strong bilateral relations and the two peoples' aspirations.

The Omani minister was received at the airport by Safwat ash-Sharif, minister of state for information; Muhammad 'Abd al-Jawad, chairman of the board of directors of MENA; Dr Mamduh al-Baltaji, chairman of the General Establishment for Information; Husayn 'Anan, chairman of the board of trustees of the Radio and Television Union; and Samya Sadiq, director of the television corporation.

More on PRC Parliamentary Delegation's Visit

Muhyi ad-Din Receives Renzhong

NC172127 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din this evening received at his office Wang Renzhong, vice chairman of the Chinese National People's Assembly Standing Committee and his delegation currently visiting Cairo. During the meeting, which was attended by Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Ilah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, both sides exchanged views on international issues, foremost of which are the Palestinian problem and Middle East situation. They also discussed the means for supporting relations between Egypt and the PRC in various spheres.

Laylah Banquet Speech

NC172156 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1953 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA) — People's Assembly Speaker Dr Kamil Laylah announced tonight that current Egyptian diplomacy seeks to give priority to solving the Palestinian and Lebanese issues and focusing international attention on the Palestinian issue. He said the coming period will witness further contacts aimed at encouraging the Palestinian side to resume negotiations with the Jordanian side which were stopped last April.

Dr Laylah made a speech tonight during a banquet he hosted in honor of the visiting Chinese parliamentary delegation led by Wang Renzhong, vice chairman of the Chinese National People's Assembly Standing Committee.

In his speech Dr Laylah said Egypt has always shouldered responsibility for demanding Arab rights and defending pan-Arab causes, spearheaded by the Palestinian people's cause — a people whose sufferings Egypt feels and for the recovery of its legitimate rights Egypt continues to work. Dr Laylah added that the recent meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and the support which has been accorded that meeting by many states, provide evidence of Egypt's farsightedness and the success of its peace strategy. Dr Kamil Laylah said: We desire to put on record before you the fact that Israel has violated the peaceful objective to which it committed itself as far back as 1977. This fact is corroborated by Israel's expansionist policy and extremist practices in the area (?in defiance) of the international community.

In his speech delivered before the Chinese parliamentary delegation, the People's Assembly speaker said Egypt has demanded that hands be taken off (?fraternal) Lebanon ever since its tribulation began.

We now repeat the same call and demand Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory — a withdrawal that will mark the start of the strengthening of the Lebanese Government's authority that will enable it to restore security. We also demand that Lebanese parties proceed on the path to achieving national reconciliation among themselves within the framework of the legitimacy that will preserve Lebanon's unity.

With regard to the Iraqi-Iranian war, the speaker lauded Iraq's stance of successive initiatives to end the war. He said: From an Islamic and pan-Arab premise, in addition to our nonaligned role, we deplore that war and demand that Iran respond to Iraq's offers to immediately cease military operations to the joint benefit of both countries.

At the outset of his speech, the People's Assembly speaker welcomed the Chinese delegation. He said: We welcome you inthe land of Egypt as faithful brothers and sincere and honorable friends. We welcome you as friends who have consistently (?proudly) adhered to principles and values, and who have abided by the real essence of solidarity among all Third World peoples. These people are now struggling for a better world in which freedom, peace, and equality will reign supreme. In such a world, aspects of exploitation, [words indistinct], and aggression would disappear. He emphasized that bilateral relations enjoy the careand attention of State Council Premier Zhao Ziyang and President Husni Mubarak.

Renzhong Banquet Address

NC180556 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA) — Mr Wang Renzhong, vice chairman of the Chinese National People's Congress Standing Committee, has affirmed the Chinese people will stand, as they have always stood, alongside the rights of the Arab people in general, and the Palestinian people in particular, so that they will recover their legitimate rights. He said victory will belong to the Palestinian people on the condition that no schism occurs among the Palestinian strugglers.

The Chinese guest gave a speech during the banquet hosted tonight by People's Assembly Speaker Kamil Laylah in honor of the visiting Chinese delegation. The Chinese guest said a traditional policy has bound the Egyptian and Chinese peoples since time immemorial. This holds particularly true because the two peoples have struggled against imperialism for the sake of national independence, and because Egypt was the first Arab and African state to establish diplomatic relations with China.

He added that the visit which PRC State Council Premier Zhao Ziyang made to Egypt and President Husni Mubarak's visit to China consolidated the ties of amicable cooperation and raised them to a new level.

He noted the coincidence in views between Egypt and China on the Middle East issue and regarding the general (?international) situation.

The guest lauded the Egyptian people's efforts under President Husni Mubarak's leadership to implement the development plan which aims at achieving prosperity.

Air Force Downs Iranian Plane 18 January

JN181138 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1120 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

At 1035 today, two enemy fighter aircraft raided a residential area in the Chuwartah region in the As-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. The daring aircraft of our Air Force intercepted them, and as result of a dogfight with the enemy aircraft, succeeded in downing one of the two enemy aircraft which was seen crashing in flames inside Iranian territory while the second enemy aircraft fled. All our fighter aircraft returned safely to base. As a result of the treacherous enemy raid, three houses were destroyed, two children were martyred, and 18 civilians in the residential area were wounded.

Thus, as days pass, the evil and aggressive spirit of the renegade Iranian rulers and of their great charlatan Khomeyni become more apparent as well as their hatred for our courageous militant people and their blatant defiance of all international norms, conventions and laws. 18 January 1984

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,344

JN171650 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA) — The Iraqi Air Force today scored direct and effective hits against the Iranian positions and troop concentrations in the central sector.

Communique No 1,344, issued by the Armed Forces General Command, added that the Iranian regime shelled Mandali, Sayyid Sadiq, (Shandari), and Khurmal yesterday evening and today with artillery, damaging some civilian establishments. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,344 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With firmness based on rights and principles the glorious sons of Iraq are continuing their valiant activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the expansionist Iranian enemy. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Today our capable Air Force aircraft launched strong and surprise attacks on the enemy positions and troop concentrations in the central sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting losses in men and equipment. Columns of smoke were seen billowing from the attacked enemy targets. All our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. One of our forward units opened fire on an enemy patrol which tried to approach our forward positions in the central sector of the battlefield and forced it to flee. Three of the enemy were killed and others wounded elsewhere in the same area.

3. Yesterday evening and today the wicked Khomeyniite regime shelled Mandali, Sayyid Sadiq, (Shandari), and Khurmal with artillery, damaging some civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 January 1984

Interior Minister Leaves for Turkey 17 January

JN171206 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA) — Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and interior minister, left Baghdad today at the head of an official delegation on a visit of several days to Turkey. The visit is within the framework of the existing cooperation between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Briefs Senator Moynihan

JN171531 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Amman, 17 Jan (PETRA) — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that Jordan supports the PLO, which represents the Palestinian people. He noted that Jordan seeks to coordinate with the PLO in order to reach a joint method of action that supports the march of peace.

During a meeting with Daniel Moynihan, the Democratic Senator from New York, in his office this morning, Al-Masri affirmed the Jordanian Government's stand on the Lebanese problem. Al-Masri stressed the need for the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon, the preservation of Lebanon's unity, independence, and safety, and support for the legitimate Lebanese authorities so that law will return to all parts of Lebanon.

Al-Masri noted the obstacles that Israel is placing in order to pursue its occupation of Lebanese territory and expressed concern about Israel's attempts to prolong its occupation and annex southern Lebanon.

The U.S. ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

It is worth noting that Moynihan is currently touring the region. He began his tour by visiting Saudi Arabia before arriving in Amman.

'Arar To Replace Ibrahim in Joint Committee

JN171040 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* has learned that Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior minister, will head the Jordanian side in the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation in place of Hasan Ibrahim, former minister of occupied territories' affairs and a parliamentary candidate.

Palestinian Side on Joint Committee Meets

JN171045 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Jan 84 p 24

[Text] Amman — The Palestinian side in the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee for bolstering the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the occupied homeland held a meeting yesterday. The meeting was attended by Hamid Abu Sittah, head of the occupied homeland department and head of the Palestinian side in the joint committee; Dr Hanna Nasir, chairman of the board of directors of the Palestinian National Fund; 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, secretary of the Arab Liberation Front; and Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander of the Palestinian revolution forces. During the meeting, they discussed means of supporting the Palestinian people.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B can confirm that the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee will not meet before the beginning of next week after holding the required consultations and fixing an agenda for the coming meeting.

Al-Wazir on Husayn Speech, Dialogue

JN171100 Amman AR-RAY in Arabic 17 Jan 84 p 28

[Text] Amman — Khalil al-Wazir has said that the remarks included in His Majesty King Husayn's speech regarding the restoration of parliamentary life to Jordan prove that this is a completely internal issue and is by no means related to the PLO's role as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Abu Jihad pointed out: We understood this from the very beginning and we have said that we realize that the restoration of parliamentary life in Jordan will not affect the fact that has been confirmed through a long history and successive sacrifices that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole representative.

Al-Wazir announced that the meetings of the technical office of the Palestinian side to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee to bolster steadfastness began yesterday. He said that these meetings will study the issues of the occupied territories and the agenda for the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee to bolster steadfastness. He said that there are many issues that need to be examined and decided, especially those related to finance. He said that most of the Arab states had failed to meet their financial commitments in this regard.

Abu Jihad wondered: How can we confront the Judaization plans to destroy our people's life without having the minimum necessary requirements? He added: The failure to fulfill these financial commitments cannot be justified. He said: We hope these states will meet their commitments as soon as possible, especially at this time when our people in the occupied territories are suffering from inflation and economic pressures.

In reply to a question about the resumption of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue after the long suspension, Abu Jihad said: We in the PLO primarily seek to bolster the Palestinian-Jordanian relations. He added that every Palestinian struggler believes in and is convinced of the need to safeguard these relations on sound and correct bases in order to establish the pillars of the future in which neither of the two peoples can do without each other.

Al-Wazir added: The dialogue was suspended with the Reagan plan, but I believe that circumstances have bypassed this issue and proved that the United States cannot play an effective role in the region so long as it adopts a biased policy toward the Israeli enemy. Therefore, the basis for joint political action during the future stage will be agreed in accordance with Arab summit resolutions, particularly the Fes summit resolutions. He said: We will proceed from the joint concepts of both sides, review the current circumstances, and determine the proper method for political action.

Al-Wazir added: We must be clear concerning the establishment of relations between us. He said: As a Palestinian revolution, our political action and struggle are always based on the continuation of the armed and revolutionary struggle, because the existence of the revolution depends on its ability to influence the Palestinian arena and on its continuous struggle against the Zionist enemy.

Al-Wazir said. Undoubtedly, Jordan has its own course of action. We believe that joint Palestinian-Jordanian action is the type of action most closely linked with the question and best appreciates the people's suffering. This action will enable us to draw up the right course to serve the Palestinian struggle and its national rights.

American University President Assassinated

President Shot in Office

NC180802 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0751 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Security sources report that Dr Malcolm Kerr, president of the American University in Beirut, was shot this morning as he was entering his office by one of three people waiting for him. The person fired on him with a pistol equipped with a silencer. He was taken to the American University Hospital where he died immediately.

Further on Assassination

NC180922 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] The assassination this morning of the president of the American University in Beirut has aroused the interest and condemnation of officials. Orders were immediately issued to begin investigations to determine the circumstances of the crime. All studies at the university have been suspended and students have been prevented from leaving, pending the conclusion of the necessary measures.

The latest information indicates that one of three people waiting for him opened fired on him with a pistol equipped with a silencer as he was about to enter his office on the third floor. The university president was shot in the head, and was immediately taken to the American University Hospital, were he soon died of his wounds.

Assassination, Kidnapping Claimed By Islamic Jihad

NC181146 Paris AFP in English 1142 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Beirut, Jan 18 (AFP) — The Islamic Jihad Organization, a group that has taken responsibility for numerous other attacks on Western forces and interests in and around Beirut, today claimed responsibility for the killing of Malcolm Kerr, the president of the American Univeristy in Beirut.

In a telephone call to the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE bureau here, a person who said he represented the organization also claimed the abduction yesterday of Husayn Farraj, the consul and first secretary at the Saudi Embassy here.

The caller said Mr Farraj was still being held, and was being judged in keeping with Islamic law. He added that soon Mr Farraj's "body will be thrown away," but did not elaborate.

Mr Kerr, he said, "is the victim of the An..rican presence in Lebanon. We promise you that (soon) there will not be any American or French on this land."

Islamic Jihad claimed the bombings against the U.S. and French military headquarters here on October 23, killing 241 and 59servicemen there [respectively]. It also claimed another truck bombing a week later at an Israeli barracks in the southern town of Tyre, killing about 40 people.

The Islamic Jihad, a fundamentalist group that supports the Iranian regime, had threatened last month to make "the earth tremble under their feet" if the French and Americans did not leave Lebanon by January 1.

More Reportage on Saudi Consul's Kidnapping

Official 'Strongly' Condemns Act

GF171402 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1144 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Beirut, 17 Jan (WAKH) — Khalil Makkawi, director of the Political Department at the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has said that Lebanese security authorities will do their utmost to ensure the release of the Saudi consul in Beirut, Husayn Farraj, who was kidnapped earlier today.

In a statement to the WAKH correspondent in Beirut, Makkawi strongly condemned the kidnapping. It is not our custom as Lebanese and Arabs to harm or insult anyone who devotes his time to serving his country and the countries he is proud of he said. He expressed regret over today's kidnapping and said: The kidnapping was a big shock to us and we regret that it took place since Husayn Farraj is attached to the embassy of an honorable Arab country which has been trying, since the beginning of the Lebanese crisis, to save Lebanon from its calamity, and has been sincerely and continuously working to help Lebanon regain its well-being.

Amal Offers Help in Search

NC172220 Paris AFP in English 2126 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Beirut, Jan 17 (AFP) — The Syrian and Saudi Arabian Governments and the Shi'ite Amal group have offered to help find a Saudi diplomat kidnapped in West Beirut today, a source close to the Amal movement said.

Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the Saudi mediator in Lebanon Rafiq al-Hariri, and the Saudi ambassador in Beirut met Amal leader Nabih Birri this afternoon to enlist his help, the source added.

Husayn 'Abdallah Farraj, 45, first secretary at the embassy, was taken from his car by unknown assailants this morning as he drove through western Beirut. Six men in two cars followed Mr Farraj from his home and forced his car to stop in a building site, an official source said. The assailants opened fire on Mr Farraj's bodyguard, Ahmad 'Ali al-Husayni, wounding him slightly in the head, then forced Mr Farraj into one of their cars and drove off, the official added. Earlier reports that Mr Farraj's driver had been wounded were unfounded, the source said.

So far no one has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping.

However, last month the Lebanese Islamic Jihad extremist group threatened action against Gulf monarchies after a series of bomb explosions on December 12 in Kuwait, aimed at the U.S. and French embassies among other targets.

In a direct threat to the Saudi regime, Islamic Jihad said the "friends of Nasir As-Sa'id (a Saudi opposition militant kidnapped in 1979 in Beirut and subsequently executed) would not leave [words indistinct].

Since 1980, several Arab ambassadors have left Lebanon due to political instability. At present only Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Tunisia have ambassadors in Beirut. Other Arab countries are represented by a charge d'affaires or an adviser.

The last Arab diplomat kidnapped here was the Jordanian Hashim Muhaysin who was seized on February 6 1981 and released three months later at Shtawrah in the Syrian controlled Al-Biqa' region.

LE MONDE Interviews Al-Jumayyil on Developments

PM171251 Paris LE MONDE in French 17 Jan 84 pp 1,4

[Interview with President Amin al-Jumayyil by P.J. Franceschini and Lucien George in B'abda — date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: The most striking situation here as the new year begins, Mr President, is an atmosphere of discouragement prompted by the observation that all paths to a settlement have been explored, all ways out exhausted, and that nothing has really succeeded. This pessimism seems particularly marked among the Christians.

Answer: It is true, the Lebanese had great dreams, thinking they would finally see peace and an end to their sufferings, and I understand why there has been some distress here and there. The Lebanese and foreigners were counting on a state and nation fashioned to their specifications. That attitude had more to do with dreams than with reality. Nonetheless, the record is fairly positive even though 1983 ended very sadly with the escalation which followed the Israelis' untimely withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf. The wave of pessimism to which you refer is not innocent, spontaneous, or legitimate. It really has gone too far too quickly and without any real justification! It is being manipulated.

Question: What do you think of the increasingly emphatic rumors of withdrawals by the Multinational Force and of the partial measures which seem to go in that direction?

Answer: You know I have no illusions about the force! I knew it would withdraw some day and even some day soon. You do not readily go and die for others. But a withdrawal gives great powers a problem of credibility and prestige. How can they leave, admitting defeat so quickly and without attaining their objectives? We are well aware that the Multinational Force will have to withdraw one day — perhaps soon — and that is why we are rushing to establish a replacement system in Lebanon through our security plan and Armed Forces. In addition to our friends' military support, their moral support is also important to us. It has never failed us. Moreover, with the implementation of the security plan which we are trying to introduce and the political reconciliation which is taking shape, the presence of the Multinational Force in Lebanon will cause much less anxiety and controversy in Washington, Paris, London, or Rome.

The Multinational Force Is a Counterbalance

Question: Does the withdrawal of 500 French soldiers from Beirut, reallocated to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, leave a gap in the network?

Answer: No, it is of secondary importance. The important factor is moral support. Numbers of troops come after that.

Question: Questions are sometimes asked regarding the Multinational Force's true role. What do you think it is?

Answer: It is here to show the flag and to help us not against Lebanese but against another Multinational Force which does not reveal its real identity and wants to destroy Lebanon as an entity. It is a counterbalance....

Question: On what factors do you base your assertion that 1984 could be the year of recovery?

Answer: I admit that the situation was disastrous in September, but I am approaching the new year with many positive factors! First, there is some sign of national reconciliation between the government and opposition — a reconciliation which took shape at the Geneva conference. That was a truly cordial meeting, and it was continued in Beirut itself since contacts, at least by telephone, are constantly maintained here, be it with Walid Junblatt, President Franjiyah, or President Rashid Karami.

The cooperation is fairly considerable, at least on details. Our new security plan will guarantee the state's presence and authority in all the regions not occupied by either the Israelis or Syrians, aside from a small section of the Ash-Shuf. There is real progress. National reconciliation will be reflected in the field and during the new conference which is due to take place in Switzerland before the end of January.

Constructive Dialogue With Damascus

Question: Is real reconciliation possible without removing the obstacle in your relations with Damascus and Jerusalem, and more generally, with those behind a particular faction?

Answer: We have not solved the fundamental problem with Syria, but relations have greatly improved and constructive dialogue has been started. I was invited to Damascus before President al-Asad's illness, my ministers go there regularly, and I can go there any time. Syria is not cooperating with us to reduce tensions in the field. You will remember its outrageous press campaign against the Lebanese Government not so long ago. In the rest of the Arab world, all attempts to isolate us have failed and there is a desire to help us overcome our problems, especially with Damascus. Saudi Arabia is taking the role of mediator. Even Libya, which I visited, has realized the importance of ending a violent quarrel.

Question: What do you think Syria's objectives are?

(The president smiled and paused before answering).

[Answer] If I knew, I would have solved my problem a long time ago....

Question: And what about Israel?

Answer: Tension is being reduced in the field through the Lebanese-Israeli-American liaison committee. It is functioning better and we are busy solving all types of problems connected with the Israeli presence in Lebanon, to make the lives of our fellow citizens in southern Lebanon a little easier.... Nonetheless, nothing can prevent reprisals against the Israeli army while it remains in Lebanon.

The Agreement With Israel

Question: Do you intend to ratify the 17 May agreement with Israel, cancel it as your opponents demand, or keep it "frozen?"

Answer: In fact, the campaigns against that agreement have used it as a pretext, because some Arab countries have concluded agreements with Israel which go much further. With regard to security, the 17 May agreement is much more favorable to Lebanon than the 1948 armistice agreements.

As for its third aspect, relating to trade and relations between the two countries, it would only be discussed 6 months after the withdrawal of the last Israeli soldier from Lebanese territory. At that time we will negotiate in complete freedom, making sure that the relations drawn up with Israel do not damage our relations with the rest of the Arab world. That was clear from the start, and President Reagan supports us. But the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, which is the justification for our ratification, itself depends on the withdrawal of the Syrians.

In those conditions it would absolutely serve no purpose to ratify the agreement and could merely hamper our relations with various people. Nonetheless, that agreement was signed with full responsibility and was almost unanimously backed by Parliament. We will ratify it as soon as that initiative can have a practical effect in the field and bring real peace to Lebanon. Otherwise, we will continue to negotiate with all the parties concerned to achieve peace.

Question: Caught between the conflicting demands of your neighbors, you give the impression of having your hands tied, forced to sign an agreement without being able or willing to carry it through, or to condemn Syria while trying to abandon it. How do you hope to secure the withdrawal of the Syrians and Israelis one day?

Answer: It is necessary to understand one thing: Once we have consolidated our position in the field as Lebanese, and regained the required credibility, we will be more capable of effectively demanding those withdrawals. As for having my hands tied, I wonder how comfortable the Israeli army feels in the south. I wonder whether it isn't now in Syria's interest to close the Lebanese file after all that has happened. I wonder whether it isn't in the interest of the different Lebanese factions to once again admit that there is no salvation outside the state and Army. Believe me, at many levels, and despite what has happened in the field, our position is more comfortable than that of the other parties to the conflict. Everyone wants us to implement their policies. Lebanon's skill lies in making them understand that an independent, united, and sovereign Lebanon serves the real interests of them all.

Every Aspect of Reconciliation Is Negotiable

Question: Do you think on a domestic level Lebanon will have to alter the Constitution to survive?

Answer: Our Constitution dates from 1926 and has withstood all dangers and regional disturbances. It is the oldest and best constitution in the Middle East. I don't know whether we could find a better one, but it is nonetheless vital to ensure that it changes for the better. For instance, it would be perfectly possible to create a senate. But it is necessary to know what you want. In Geneva I proposed that the National Salvation Front immediately participate in the government to ensure that we shouldered the responsibilities together. Let them come then! Let them join me in shouldering the dangers and agree to deal with all parties involved! But there are other interests at stake. They condemn and pose preconditions without wishing to shoulder the historic responsibilities which fall on the Lebanese leaders. Some of them protest my system of government, and when I invite them to share power with me to tackle deadlines and challenges, they disappear!

Question: The opposition is forwarding the idea of having the Assembly elect the government head. What do you think of that?

Answer: The tradition followed in the appointment of the prime minister is fairly close to an election by parliament, since he is appointed following parliamentary consultations. But, in the framework of the conference on national accord, everything can be negotiated and discussed to achieve an improvement in our system and to give all the parties security.

The Druze "in Deadlock"

Question: Isn't it necessary to give a more important place to the Shi'ite community, whose size has increased and which is torn by movements, some of them violent?

Answer: Lebanon is a confederation of communities. As regards theShi'ites, their opinions are very divided, but now, as before, they are the government's natural allies, because only the Army can restore the south to them, only the state can provide them with the infrastructures they need. Naturally, there is the Iranian phenomenon and subversive elements among the Shi'ites. It isn't possible to negotiate with those diehards, but the vast majority in the Shi'ite community is anxious that security be established in the southern suburb. It is clinging to the state. The majority of Shi'ites would like to break the present deadlock.

Question: What about the Druze?

Answer: That is a different matter. They have won a victory, but they are well aware of how. Foreigners abound in the zone they control. Moreover, that led to the recent Israeli bombing raids in the Druze Mountains, although Israel has excellent relations with some Druze. They are now in deadlock, and if they want to reap the political fruit of their success, they must turn to the state. Otherwise, they will remain between the devil, in the shape of Israel, and the deep blue sea, in the shape of Syria.

A Risk of Breaking Up?

Question: Is there a real risk of Lebanon's breaking up?

Answer: There are certainly people in Damascus, Israel, or the United States who are thinking of that. I am not talking about the governments. We have the means of preventing such a breakup; first the national dialogue, which is beginning to bear fruit, and second the Lebanese Army. We aspire to a rapid political normalization in order to disengage the latter, and to return it to the barracks for a vital retraining. It would then be the Internal Security Forces who would take responsibility for security in the field. Since the Army has demonstrated its cohesion and efficacy, it has become the symbol of unity and the nation's objectives. Finally, we have created a counterspiral, an impetus for national salvation. This strategy requires time. We must move step by step; we must win back our capital as a whole, then the Ash-Shuf, the north, the south, and in short, make slow progress, negotiate with everyone step by step, and especially with Syria and Israel. Naturally this is not very comforting, but the other attitude is to allow the country to be divided. I am not here for that. I know the Lebanese on all sides will struggle to the end for our country's independence and sovereignty.

MNF Statement Attributed to Al-Jumayyil Denied

NC171550 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The Lebanese Presidential Office has released the following:

Some media have reported that during his meeting with Libyan Chairman Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, President Amin al-Jumayyil criticized the Multinational Force's mission in Lebanon and regarded it as an occupation force seeking to destroy the country.

The Presidential Office categorically denies the report. The Lebanese Government has several times affirmed its appreciation for the positive and effective role which the Multinational Force is playing, and which is under the personal auspices of the president for restoring peace in Lebanon, supporting the unity of the people, assisting the state to extend its sovereignty over all Lebanese territory, and helping to bring the withdrawal of all illegitimate forces and armies from Lebanon. Lebanon is patiently awaiting the day when it will regain full sovereignty over its territory so that the Multinational Force can return home after having accomplished its mission with devotion and sincerity.

Higher Liaison Body Political Committee Meets

NC171310 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1152 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Telephone dispatch by radio correspondent Joe Sa'adah from the Presidential Palace — live]

[Text] The Political Committee of the Higher Liaison Body held its periodic meeting at noon today at the Presidential Palace. Dr Wadi' Haddad, presidential adviser for national affairs; the Italian ambassador, the U.S., French, and British charges d'affaires; the general coordinator of the Multinational Force, Staff Major General Habib Faris, the commanders of the Multinational Force, and the Lebanese officers team attended.

Dr Haddad briefed the conferees on the general political situation and the obstacles still obstructing implementation of the security plan. Dr Haddad also reviewed the reasons for the sudden security deterioration, particularly the regional political developments. He also referred to the importance the government attributes to consolidating the security situation, which would help in clearing the atmosphere and resuming the political dialogue.

The chief of the Operations Room at the Presidential Palace then reviewed the security developments, pinpointing the artillery emplacements that shelled the residential areas and the Marines' positions. These had been answered in an appropriate manner and some had been destroyed including the rocket launcher which shelled the airport and Marines' positions from 'Aynab.

Karami Meets U.K. Envoy, Makes Statement

NC171330 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] British Ambassador to Lebanon Henry David Miers today visited former Prime Minister Rashid Karami in Tripoli.

Karami later said he felt the British ambassador understands Lebanon's problems. Karami expressed the hope that Britain will continue to play its role with the Multinational Force because no solution can be acceptable without a real understanding of our problems.

Karami stressed that Britain's stance and views contribute toward convincing the other states to find a sound solution to our crisis.

U.S., French Targets of New SPP Terrorist Group

NC171315 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Security reports received by the Voice of Lebanon indicate that the Junblattist Party [Socialist Progressive Party] has formed a group to carry out explosions against U.S. and French interests in Beirut with the intention of harming those interests and compelling the U.S. and French contingents to leave.

This was planned during a meeting last week at Prince Amin Palace in Bayt ad-Din. The meeting was attended by Fu'ad Salman, Anwar al-Fatayri, Hisham Nasir ad-Din, and Shaykh Sayyad. The group has taken quarters in Wata al-Musaytibah, more precisely, in houses belonging to Al Dhubyan, Abu Zaki, and Al-Bu'ayni. The group has stored its explosive devices in Walid Junblatt's residence in the Furn al-Hattab area in Al-Musaytibah.

Continuing Reportage on Security Situation

Clashes Reported in Al-Kharrub

NC171222 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Following the calm that prevailed on all the usual fronts in the mountain, Beirut, and its southern suburb, the security situation became tense this morning in the Al-Kharrub region at 1130, when clashes with various types of weapons took place between Barja and B'asir on the one side and Al-Jiyah and Tallat az-Zarub on the other.

Sniper Fire, Clashes in Mountain

NC171834 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The security situation on the traditional axes varied between guarded calm and sporadic clashes this afternoon andevening. At 1800 sniper fire opened on the Suq al-Gharb-'Ayn Ksur-Btatir and Kafr Shima-ash-Shuwayfat axes. Clashes broke out this afternoon on these axes.

It was reported from the Al-Kharrub region that antiarmor and sniper fire was exchanged between Al-Mughayriyah, Barja, and B'asir on one side and Majdaluna, Jun, Al-Jiyah, and Harat B'asir on the other. Barja and B'asir were subjected to artillery shelling at noon today from the Phalangist gun emplacements on Dahr al-Mgharah, Al-Jiyah, and (Al-Mashraf).

Sidon Deputy's Car Bombed

NC180818 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] A stick of dynamite went off at 0100 today under the car of Sidon Deputy Dr Nazih al-Bazri, causing damage to the car and shattering the window panes of his house.

Commentaries Attack Husayn's Praliament Speech

AL-BA'TH Editorial

JN170940 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's editorial, *AL-BA'TH* says: It comes as no surprise to the Arab citizens that the basic axis of the speech from the throne in Amman is the official royal announcement of resuming a dialogue with Yasir 'Arafat to reach the required authorization that will put the final touches on the proposed settlement of the Palestinian question on the basis of the Reagan plan. Neither is it surprising that this announcement comes only a few days prior to Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in Amman. According to Khalil al-Wazir's statements to the Jordanian newspaper *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*, 'Arafat will visit Amman to draw up a final formula for such authorization after his joining Camp David and wagering on U.S. policy in the region. 'Arafat hopes this policy will provide him with a certain role after all his roles in the Palestinian arena have been exposed and the PLO has rejected him and called for canceling the legitimacy of his leadership.

The paper adds: It is also not surprising that the speech from the throne was delivered from the rostrum of the Jordanian House of Representatives that was revived in accordance with a royal decree after being suspended by royal decree for more than 10 years. This Jordanian Parliament comprises Palestinian symbols that represent the Jordanian Constitution's desire to establish a confederation between the two banks of Jordan. This confederation is the framework that will witness the birth of the royal Jordanian-'Arafatist deal which will have U.S. blessing and a declared Zionist participation.

In order to bring all these equations together, the Jordanian regime yesterday called for Egypt's return to the Arab fold even if this action violates the Arab League Charter, and without even a hint of the need for Egypt's liberation from the Camp David accords and their restrictions. If we link these features together — features that constitute the program of Jordan's political action regarding a great and fateful issue such as the Palestinian question — we will realize that the Jordanian regime is on the verge of carrying out what would be one of the most serious moves that any Arab regime could take since As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. This move can only be described as a treasonous disposal of the Palestinian question on the basis of historic ties between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples and on the basis of the deviation by 'Arafat, who has severed all his relations with the PLO's struggle, its revolutionary program, and its aspirations for liberation.

AL-BA'TH concludes: It is useful to remember that, by the same measure that As-Sadat's task was impossible and difficult, the new Jordanian move will be more difficult even if 'Arafat clings to it, because history cannot turn back in accordance with royal decrees and peoples' struggle cannot be an asset in their majesties' banks when their own currency is worthless even though they may think the ground on which they stand is solid.

Damascus Radio Comment

JN171600 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] In his speech yesterday, the Jordanian king focused on what he described as the unity of the two banks, viewing the unity, which occured in 1950, as a sign of the end of the Palestinian character. The king deliberately stressed that the inhabitants of the two banks are his own kinfolk; that the government, which includes nine Palestinians, is his own government; that the PLO has no existence outside 'Arafat; and that the only Palestinians are those who live in the occupied homeland. Thus, the speech from the throne rules out any Palestinian existence and considers the refugee camps faits accomplis. By this, the king complies with the Israeli and U.S. positions that the solution to the Palestinian people's cause lies only in settling the refugees and replacing Palestinian legitimacy with a Jordanian government and parliament.

Perhaps, the king wants to cancel the Palestinian people and all the Arabs. The Arab League has not given the Amman government the right to assimilate the Palestinian character into the Jordanian family about which the king speaks in all his speeches. Instead, the Arab League gave him the mandate over the West Bank, just as it gave Egypt the mandate over Gaza. But the Amman government, at the time, agreed with the Zionist leadership and the British Government to divide Palestine — land and people — between Jordan and Israel. Therefore, royal control over the West Bank was not a sign of unity, and the repression of the Palestinian people throughout the years of Jordanian rule was not a sign of a unity.

The Palestinian people, who started their revolution 20 years ago, would not have sacrificed their blood had they approved Jordan's domination over their existence and cause. The Arabs would not have approved the Palestinian people's revolution, and the world would not have approved the Palestinian people's right to gain their legitimate rights in their land and homeland.

The Palestinian people, who by their revolution and cause unified the Arab nation's feelings, are fully aware that unity is their destiny and that the Arabs in all their countries are the soldiers of the cause. But they reject any attempt at containment, attempts to dissolve their existence, and attempts to liquidate their rights for the sake of a false slogan — which the Jordanian king uses as a pretext to impose the will of those who divided Palestine so they can disavow its genuine people and their long struggle to achieve the right to self-determination.

The Jordanian king has refused to recognize the existence of the people in the camps. He considers the agents of the Village Leagues and those who failed on the road of struggle as representing the Palestinian people. This implies new meanings for the phase that the king worked out with 'Arafat and his clique to eliminate the Palestinian rifle and to satisfy Israel.

The king talked at length about the PLO's legitimacy but considers those who accept his American method as representing the Palestinian people. Thus, he rules out any independent decisionmak' t and considers the elimination and dissolution of the Palestinian character into his decisionmaking as legitimate.

Despite their optimism, those who became part of the Jordanian king's decisionmaking have forgotten that Palestinians are not only the West Bank, that in any negotiations with Jordan Israel wants the king to recognize it and the West Bank as a secure Israeli border, and that Israel refuses to recognize the existence of any Palestinian land just as it refuses to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determmination.

The king is not more concerned about the Palestinian people than Israel is. He wants the rifle he fought to fall just as Israel, which considers the Palestinian rifle the most dangerous enemy, wants it to fall. Finally, he will not support any right. The king's talks about an Arab unanimity on his method and plan represents a big lie and treachery. If the Palestinian people themselves continue to adhere to their slogan of liberation and return, can any Arab reject the Palestinian people's will and decision to sacrifice?

Military Formation Carries Out Live Exercise

JN171333 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] On the instructions of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, an artillery and missile formation has carried out an exercise with live ammunition.

Attending the practical stage of the exercise were General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces and defense minister; Major General 'Ali Aslan and Major General Hasan Turkmani, deputy chiefs of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces; and a number of General Command officers and the commanders of the combat formations.

At the beginning of the exercise, the director of the exercise presented a detailed explanation of the mock enemy targets. The formation that carried out the exercise performed its combat task completely and accurately. The missiles scored direct hits on the targets.

At the end of the exercise, Gen Talas praised the formation and asked the fighters to maintain further vigilance, combat preparedness, and continuous training so as to be prepared to make a positive contribution to the battles of victory and liberation and to achieve the slogan of our leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad: martyrdom or victory.

Shamir Confident Husayn Will Join Negotiations

TA181139 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1117 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that Israel is prepared to negotiate with Jordan over a peace treaty, but Jordan is not demonstrating that it wants peace. In reply to a motion for the agenda by MK Amnon Lynn regarding the convening of the Jordanian Parliament, Shamir said that Jordan had not been clever enough to take advantage of the Parliament's convening to further negotiations with Israel. Our Knesset correspondent Hayim Zissovitz reports.

[Zissovitz — live or recorded] Israel regards the participation of the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria in the convening of the Jordanian Parliament positively, Yitzhaq Shamir said. The convening of the parliament and the participation of inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria fit in with the Camp David agreements.

[Begin Shamir recording] In view of this, we could have hoped that the decision by the Jordanian authorities to convene the Parliament had been aimed at breaking the ground for Jordan's entry into a positive course, taking advantage of the right time, of the weakness of the terrorist organizations, in order to move toward negotiations with Israel. The convening of the Parliament could have contributed to this goal by providing formal and public authorization in Jordan for its entry into the political process. However, the Jordanian Government opted not to follow this positive course. To our regret, there are also signs pointing to the opposite direction. [end recording]

[Zissovitz] Shamir said there was room to ask what Jordan wants. He quoted serious accusations made by Husayn against Israel, and recalled that Jordan had invited the terrorist leaders to Amman. Jordan must choose between negotiations with Israel and negotiations with the organizations that want to destroy it.

[Begin Shamir recording] Jordan's welfare and the future of peace in our area require the Jordanian Government to sever itself from the Rabat and Fes resolutions and declare its willingness to join the peace process, on the basis of the Camp David agreements. [end recording]

[Zissovitz] The prime minister again declared that Israel was prepared to make peace with Jordan, and he expressed his confidence that in the future Jordan would join negotiations with Israel.

U.S. Reportedly Taking Action

TA180932 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jan 84 p 1

["Exclusive" report by U.S. correspondent 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] The United States has recently made it clear to Israel that it is taking vigorous action to bring King Husayn into the negotiations with Israel, in accordance with the Camp David accords. It furthermore informed Israel that it would veto any initiative for changing Security Council Resolution 242 aimed at bringing the PLO to the negotiating table.

This U.S. clarification increases chances of France and Egypt retracting their earlier support for amending Resolution 242. It was conveyed to Israel in the last few days, inter alia, in a written reply by Secretary of State George Shultz to Prime Minister Shamir, responding to a letter in which the prime minister had denounced Egypt's ties with the PLO.

A State Department spokesman yesterday expressed support for King Husayn's efforts to obtain Palestinian backing for a move which would bring him to the negotiating table.

Secretary of State George Shultz will also raise the Middle East issue in his Stockholm talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko. Prior to this meeting Washington again stressed to Jerusalem its adherence to the Israel-Lebanese agreement of May 1983.

The situation of Soviet Jewry will also be raised at the meeting with Gromyko.

Shamir Comments on Herzog Trip to Africa

TA180723 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] The president of Israel, Hayim Herzog, left last night for Africa. He will be paying a state visit to Zaire and Liberia, the two countries which renewed diplomatic ties with Israel over the past year. During his 9-day state visit, President Herzog will hold talks with the president of the two countries, Mobutu Sese Seko and Samuel Doe.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir visited the president at his home before the departure. Shamir also serves as foreign minister and is one of the architects of Israel's new ties in Africa. Reporter Dan Eisenberg asked Prime Minister Shamir about the significance of President Herzog's trip.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] It is the first visit for many years of the president of the State of Israel in Africa. I am sure that this visit will contribute to the deepening and strengthening of the relations between Israel and these African countries and also the relations between Israel and all the African Continent, because this visit will be very known in all of Africa.

[Eisenberg] You have been to Zaire as foreign minister. Do you plan to go to Africa as prime minister?

[Shamir] Maybe, but before that, I hope that we will have here the visit of the President Mobutu. [end recording]

Sharon Denies Responsibility for Two Lebanon Decisions

TA180800 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Last night Minister Ari'el Sharon claimed he had not been a partner to two of the decisions that led to the outbreak of the war in Lebanon. In a speech in Tel Aviv, Minister Sharon said he had not been a partner to the decision to bomb Beirut or to the decision to call up the reserves.

[Begin Sharon recording] When I was accused of being the person responsible for the war, I did not say: Gentlemen, when the decision was made I was not in Israel. When it was decided, I was somewhere on a visit, a secret one. It is true that there was no possibility of making contact. I heard about the attack on the ambassador in London from the radio. It was impossible for me to make contact. It was impossible to do so from where I was. I was not a partner either to the decision to bomb Beirut or to the decision to call up the army. Have I ever said as much as a single word about this issue?

I was a Cabinet member; I regarded myself as responsible, responsible for all the things. I returned to Israel on Saturday evening, went straight to the Cabinet session after the army was already called up, after the bombardment of Beirut reached its peak. Have I even once brought it up or tried to cast responsibility on someone else? Not for a second. Why? Because I was a Cabinet member, and, as a Cabinet member, unlike many others, I regarded myself as responsible for everything that happens in the Cabinet, good or bad. [end recording]

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe brought us Ari'el Sharon's remarks. Security sources are reacting with amazement to the remarks made last night by Ari'el Sharon. These sources say that Sharon's remarks are only partly correct. His facts are correct, that is true; but if Sharon is trying to hint that he had no part in giving the army the order to start the war and that he was presented with a fait accompli, post factum, this is not so. Here is our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal:

[Tal — live, in studio] In the wake of Sharon's remarks, during the night we went back and rechecked the facts. People with whom we spoke and who were involved in taking the decisions during the war say that what Sharon is saying is true, although not all the truth is stated. It is true that he was not partner to the two decisions that preceded the outbreak of the war, but he was at the session when it was decided to enter Lebanon. This is also what former Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan says. He also confirms the facts presented by Sharon, but he says that Sharon already had something to say about the war.

[Begin Eytan recording] On Saturday evening, when there was the Cabinet session in which it was decided to go to war, the defense minister was present. He participated in the deliberations and expressed his views, as they are known. Arik Sharon, in his remarks, referred to moves before the war. He did not say he was not at the session held in the prime minister's house on Saturday evening. He was there. And he referred to what was said. The point of no return was on Sunday, not Saturday. The aerial attacks on Friday and Saturday were not related to the war, because no decision to go to war had yet been made. The decision to go to war was made on Saturday evening, at 2100, and Arik Sharon was there. [end recording]

[Tal] Raful [Refa'el Eytan] disclosed that on 5 June he recommended to the prime minister not to end the attacks on Beirut and confirmed that he said it would be calm there, but when it appeared to him that the terrorists were planning to open fire and had also taken such a decision on Saturday morning, he recommended to Menahem Begin to go on attacking the terrorists, and the entire Cabinet took the decision on this. As stated, Ari'el Sharon says he took upon himself the responsibility for the implementation of the Cabinet decisions post factum, that is, also for decisions made when he was not in Israel.

Shinuy Submits No Confidence Motion on Economy

TA180739 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] The opposition Shinuy Party has submitted a no confidence motion against the government over the economic situation. The Labor Alignment yesterday submitted a similar motion to the Knesset over figures showing growing numbers of Israelis living below the poverty line. Histadrut Secretary General Yerusham Meshel has called for a special Central Committee meeting tomorrow to discuss the poverty figures.

Gap Between Defense, Finance Ministries Over Cuts

TA180841 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Even after last night's meeting between the defense minister and finance minister, the gap over the required cut in the defense budget remains. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik points out that the dispute over this issue is the main stumbling block to the achievement of a genuine cut in government activity. The finance minister must bring the defense proposals, together with the general budget cut, to the Cabinet for approval at its next session. This is because, according to law, by the end of the month he must submit the new budget proposals to the Cabinet and Knesset for approval.

'National Security Council' Established

TA180848 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Jan 84, p 8

[Report by Ya'ir 'Amikam]

[Text] A "National Security Council" has begun operating in the last few weeks, its members comprising army officers as well as numerous civilians who formerly served with the various defense and security organization.

The council is headed by the chief of planning at IDF headquarters, Major General Menahem 'Eynan. He coordinates the various brain trusts, who submit position papers to the defense minister.

The new council has replaced the national security unit which operated under the previous defense minister, Ari'el Sharon. All its civilian members work on a voluntary basis, including former Mosad and general security services heads, reserve generals 'Amos Horev, Shlomo Gazit, and Aharon Yariv, and Professor Itamar Rabinowitz. Lawyer Arye Merimsky coordinates the volunteers and is responsible for the legal aspects of the council's work.

The council was established at the request of the defense minister and with the knowledge of the chief of staff. It has no authority

and does not determine policy. Its duties are solely to submit recommendations to the defense minister pertaining to questions he puts to the council.

AFP: High-Ranking Official on Withdrawal Plan

NC171723 Paris AFP in English 1654 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Jerusalem, Jan 17 (AFP) — Israel is pushing a plan for the withdrawal of forces from the region running south of Beirut to the Al-Awwali River, a high-ranking Israeli official said here today.

"The fulfillment of the plan should allow deployment of the Lebanese Army in the Beirut southern region, particularly along the coast road and in the Ash-Shuf," the official said.

Asked how Damascus felt, the official expressed the view that the Syrians would give "explicit or tacit agreement," as they had some weeks ago for the evacuation of Lebanese Christians from Dayr al-Qamar.

Under the plan, he said, there might be withdrawal of the "Lebanese Forces" (Christian militia) and the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) from the Iqlim al-Kharrub region, the hinterland of Sidon, allowing government forces to enter the sector.

At present, the Lebanese Government controls only a small part of Lebanese territory.

At the same time, the official said, the Lebanese Army would try to extend its control toward north Lebanon to a point beyond the northern limits of Jubayl.

The plan, which would come under the inter-Lebanese security agreement, would have three stages:

The first would consist of a deployment of the Lebanese Army along the coast road to the Al-Awwali river. In theory this would serve to stabilize the zone and allow government forces to control southbound traffic, thus reducing the number of anti-Israeli attacks.

A second stage would be a withdrawal of forces from the Ash-Shuf region to enable the region's 120,000-odd Druze to unload their merchandise on their natural markets, notably Beirut.

In a final and more complex phase, there would be an exchange of populations in the Ash-Shuf.

The question might also arise, the official said, of opening the Dayr al-Qamar highway routes northward and eastward, in line with the agreements reached with the various Lebanese factions. The official added that the plan was already several weeks old, but had been held back for logistical reasons and because of last-minute demands put forward by the Lebanese Government and PSP chief Walid Junblatt.

The official did not specify what role the Israeli army would play in the plan.

Charge Dismantled Near Tyre; IDF Soldiers Shot At

TA171436 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1347 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] A large explosive charge was discovered this afternoon by UN soldiers about 10 km south of Tyre. It was dismantled without causing any damage. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that earlier IDF soldiers in the vicinity of Tyre reported they had been shot at. The IDF forces are searching the area.

Demonstrations, Strikes Reported in South Lebanon

TA171717 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Inhabitants in southern Lebanon tried to stage demonstrations today to protest the fact that the IDF has uprooted orchards in the outskirts of Sidon. The demonstrations were organized by the Shi'ite organization Amal through pamphlets distributed in the villages. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that tires were set on fire and stone barriers were erected on the coastal road south of Sidon. Also, stones were hurled at the IDF soldiers. The IDF forces dispersed the demonstrators.

In the Shi'ite villages east of Tyre there was an almost full strike. Several shops were closed down in An-Nabatiyah but IDF Assistance Unit officers persuaded the shopkeepers to reopen them.

Civilian Administration Head To Resign

TA171733 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Report by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal — live]

[Text] The head of the civilian administration, Brigadier General Shlomo Ilia, will submit his resignation to the defense minister tomorrow according to an agreement reached by all parties concerned. It was reported today that the Military Police have been checking suspicions raised by civilian bodies outside the defense establishment about civilian administration officials.

As said, it was agreed by the defense minister, the chief of staff, and the coordinator of activities in the territories that Brig Gen Ilia should terminate his post. He will submit his resignation to Minister Arens tomorrow.

Brig Gen Ilia took on the post about 8 months ago, after Minister Ari'el Sharon left the Defense Ministry. He replaced Menahem Milson . During his tenure he walked around in civilian clothes. He has recently begun wearing a uniform and his insignia again. As of tomorrow, he will no longer be the head of the civilian administration.

His replacement will probably be announced and further details about the circumstances of Ilia's resignation may be published this evening.

More on Ilia Resignation

TA171914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The Defense Ministry this evening released details about the suspicions raised against the head of the civilian administration in Judaea and Samaria, Brigadier General Shlomo Ilia. Among other things, the suspicions refer to the transfer of a female soldier to Brig Gen Ilia's office in contravention with procedures, and permission given to this same female soldier to absent herself from military service for a few weeks. Ilia is also suspected of using military equipment for other purposes and of employing an inhabitant of the territories to do work in his home. Another suspicion deals with the purchase of goods from inhabitants of the territories in contravention of IDF orders.

The military advocate general will shortly issue his opinion about the findings of the Military Police in this affair. At this stage, the head of the civilian administration asked to resign from his job and this was approved by the defense minister and the chief of staff. He will be replaced by his deputy, Colonel Fredie Zakh.

Further Details

TA180733 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Security sources have told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that following Ilia's resignation, there may be shocks in the civilian administration and officers may become overly cautious in their relations with the inhabitants of the territories. These security personnel have said that the allegations against Brigadier General Ilia, suggest someone may be trying to get him into trouble. They said there was nothing in what had been said to cast doubts upon him. Shlomo Ilia himself refused to respond to the remarks.

The heads of the Village Leagues in Judaea and Samaria say they were shocked to hear of the investigation against Brig Gen Shlomo Ilia and his resignation from the post of head of the civilian administration. Bishara Qimsiyah, the head of the Village Leagues, said that members of the leagues knew nothing about the affairs relating to Ilia's resignation. He praised the help Ilia had given to the Village Leagues.

Private Building in West Samaria Stops

TA171339 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Private building in western Samaria has come to a halt. Building is not even begun in most of the settlements initiated by private buildiers. Some of the contractors pulled out of financial reasons; other delays are being caused by government red-tape and legal problems, according to Deputy Agriculture Minister Mikha'el Deqel. Twenty-six settlements have been planned for private construction in Judaea and Samaria.

DAVAR Criticizes Lax Stand on Domestic Violence

TA180642 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 18 Jan 84

[From review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *DAVAR* writes that the outstanding threat to Israeli democracy in its 35th year was the attack against the Muslim College and the murder of three of its female students, Emil Grunzweig's murder, and the booby-trapped handgrenades exploding almost every morning in churches and mosques in Jerusalem and the West Bank. The paper says that the Karp Committee report exposed the undermined status of law in the territories. The Cabinet did nothing. The nation's spokesmen prefer to regard Jewish terrorists as deviants or psychopaths and thus provide a cover for the expansion of the evil phenomenon.

ALGERIA

SWAPO's Nujoma Makes Statement on Departure

PM180912 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 30-31 Dec 83 p 5

[APS report: "The Algerian Revolution Remains a Source of Inspiration and Support"]

[Text] Algiers — SWAPO Chairman Sam Nujoma left Algiers Thursday morning [29 December], at the end of a 3-day visit to Algeria.

Mr Nujoma was seen off at Houari Boumediene Airport by Mr Sadek Zouaten, candidate member of the Central Committee and chief of the Liberation Movement section, and by the SWAPO representative in Algiers.

In a statement to the national and international press before his departure, Mr Nujoma was anxious to express his congratulations to President Chadli Bendjedid on his reelection as FLN secretary general and candidate for the presidency. "We are convinced," he said, "that Algeria, under President Chadli Bendjedid's political leadership, will continue to give aid and support to the oppressed peoples of Palestine, Namibia, and South Africa and to all those struggling against the forces of reaction and neocolonialism in the world."

The SWAPO chairman also seized the opportunity to thank the FLN and the Algerian Government and people for "the material assistance and political and diplomatic support which Algeria has constantly given SWAPO. The Algerian revolution," he added, "has always been a source of inspiration and support for the liberation movements in Africa, Asia, and Latin America."

With regard to the aim of his visit to Algeria, Mr Nujoma said that the SWAPO delegation had come to inform the Algerian leaders of the latest political and military developments on the Namibian stage, especially the increase in repression of the Namibian people by the racist Pretoria regime.

In this context, Mr Nujoma stated that the South African regime recently set up a special corps under the direct authority of the apartheid regime's prime minister. "That corps, similar to Hitler's Nazi SS, is not accountable to anybody for any of its crimes," he said, adding that the members of that corps can shoot on sight without any kind of action being taken about it.

"The corps has also been set up," Mr Nujoma added, "because the South African armed forces are no longer capable of facing the people's resistance which is constantly swelling within Namibia."

The SWAPO chairman also stressed that the Pretoria regime is using Namibian territory as a starting base for its invasions and acts of aggression against the independent states in the region, especially the People's Republic of Angola, of which several provinces have been occupied by South African troops since 1981.

In this context, Mr Nujoma described the current aggression against Angola as an invasion which is a continuation of the Pretoria racist regime's expansionist, colonialist, and fascist policy. "In fact," he said, "that invasion is merely an attempt to wreak vengence on the MPLA's forces, which inflicted bloody defeats on Pretoria's racist troops in 1975 and 1976."

The SWAPO chairman concluded by expressing his thanks to Angola and the other frontline countries, which are giving constant aid to the SWAPO fighters despite South Africa's policy of aggression.

It should be recalled that during his visit, Mr Sam Nujoma was received by Mr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and Mr Djelloul Bakhti Nemmiche, members of the Central Committee, and foreign minister and minister of veterans affairs respectively. Mr Nujoma also had talks with Mr Sadek Zouaten, candidate member of the Central Committee and chief of the Liberation Movement Section.

Those talks related to the situation prevailing in Namibia and in southern Africa, characterized by the continuous aggressions perpetrated by the racist South African regime against the peoples of the region.

LIBYA

Ethiopian COPWE Official, Delegation Visit

Army's Jabir Receives Visitors

LD171055 Tripoli JANA in English 0929 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 13, Jan 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, yesterday at noon received Fisseha Desta, member of the Executive Committee at the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia, and his accompanying delegation.

COPWE Official, Delegation Depart

LD171103 Tripoli JANA in English 0927 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 13, Jan 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Fisseha Desta, member of the Executive Committee at the Commission for Organising the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli yesterday afternoon after ending a visit to the Jamahiriyah.

Mr Desta and his accompanying delegation were seen off at Tripoli International Airport by the chief of General Staff of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, Brigadier Mustafa al-Kharrubi.

Arab People's Congress Debates in Tripoli

LD181023 Tripoli JANA in English 0930 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 14, Jan. 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Members of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress (A.P.C.) attended part of the debate

of the basic people's congress of Andalus quarter in Tripoli last night.

Dr 'Abdallah Sa'adeh, A.P.C. member, delivered a speech on behalf of the Lebanese National Movement in which he said that the problem of the Arab nation lies in not giving the masses their right of self determination. He added that the Libyan Arab people enjoy the freedom of decision-making and building their future as well as running their own practical affairs, which confirms the correct and sound line of the third universal theory and its vanguard dicta.

He went on that this experiment in the direct people's democracy and its permanent slogan, "Authority, wealth and arms in the hands of the people," became today a reality that is a common practice, and this has been proven through this debate.

He said our confidence in the Jamahiriyah, where the people possess authority, wealth and arms, is bound to destroy the intransigence of the imperialist foreign armies which intimidate it,because no imperialist army can defeat a people which is determined to either die or liberate itself, and the Jamahiriyah will inflict still heavier losses on the enemies than in Lebanon.

He concluded by applauding the struggle of the Lebanese people against the Zionist enemy to liberate all its territories and maintain the Arabic character of Lebanon, as well as share in liberating the rest of the occupied Arab territories.

Taysir Qubba'h, member of the PFLP Politburo, also addressed the meeting saying that this huge progress on the Jamahiriyah's soil — where the masses of every establishment, street, district, village or town are evaluating the experience of last year on all political and social levels and in various social activities and are preparing to draw up plans for next year — is a complete experiment unique in its kind that starts from the Jamahiriyah.

He asserted that the Great 1st September Revolution was the first to open the way wide before the masses to carry out this unique experiment. He added that: "We feel tranquil and proud that the people's authority in these people's congresses will protect the Jamahiriyah from any foreign aggression, and it is the guarantee and support for all the strugglers in the Arab region and the world".

Taysir Qubba'h denounced Yasir 'Arafat's betrayal of the Palestinian cause by joining the Camp David policy line, and other capitulatory plans. He said: "We will not allow anybody to deviate from the Palestine National Charter and the resolutions of Palestinian national congresses and the Arab summit of Baghdad.

He concluded that the Palestinian masses are committed to carrying the gun until victory.

SUDAN

Fleeing Ethiopian Troops, Citizens Welcomed

JN180953 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Kassala, Jan 18 (SUNA) — Ethiopian troops and civilians have crossed the border into Sudan, fleeing the fighting with Eritrean guerrillas in Ethiopian border towns.

Security officials in Kassala yesterday said some 500 Ethiopian soldiers and about 400 civilians — mostly women and children — arrived here by midday Tuesday. The troops handed over their arms to the military authorities here, the sources told SUNA.

Ethiopians fled into Sudan after guerrillas of the Eritrean Liberation Front took over the Ethiopian border towns of Teseney,Aligider and (Nimra Asharat) in 12 hours of fighting with Ethiopian troops last Sunday.

Official sources here told SUNA that "huge numbers" of Ethiopian soldiers and civilians "are still flowing across the border" and that the security authorities "are watching the borderline and are receiving the arrivals.

The sources said that the Sudanese authorities concerned had welcomed the fleeing Ethiopians and assured them that they would "enjoy the same care accorded to the Ethiopian brothers in Sudan. [punctuation as received]

The sources described as calm the situation in the Sudanese border region and said that no fighting had occurred within the Sudanese territory.

The regional security council is in a state of continuedsession making arrangements for the accomodation of the arriving Ethiopians, the sources said.

TUNISIA

233 Prisoners To Be Released on Anniversary

LD171452 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] On the occasion of Revolution Day [18 January], the conditional releases committee of the Ministry of the Interior has reviewed the records of 312 prisoners sentenced by the public courts — such as the (?magistrate) courts — and has decided to release 233 of them.

CAMEROON

Biya Receives Nigerian Defense Minister Bali

AB171303 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] This morning President Paul Biya received a Nigerian special envoy at the Unity Palace. Major General B.Y. Bali, who is Nigeria's minister of defense and member of the Supreme Military Council, is touring African countries in order to explain why the soldiers had to take over power in Nigeria.

Maj Gen Bali told Radio Cameroon that Nigeria has no intention of altering its foreign policy. He specified that the efforts of the military administration are simply aimed at (?reviving) the country's economy.

Receives Buhari Message

AB172100 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] President Paul Biya today granted audience to a special envoy of the new Nigerian military leader, Major General Muhammadu Buhari. The envoy, Major General B.Y. Bali, defense minister and member of the Supreme Military Council of the Nigerian military government, told Radio Cameroon after the meeting that he was bearer of an undisclosed message to President Biya about the recent happenings in Nigeria. Asked what measures the military government was taking to improve the economic situation in Nigeria, he said the government was carrying out a big round study of the situation economically, and it would be made public later.

Maj Gen Bali said there will be no change in Nigeria's foreign policy options.

CHAD

Nigerian Defense Minister Brings Buhari Message

AB172105 Paris AFP in French 1340 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 17 Jan (AFP) — Nigerian Defense Minister General Bali arrived in Ndjamena today with a message from General Muhammadu Buhari, the head of the Nigerian Federal Military Government, to Chadian head of state Hissein Habre.

Gen Bali, who arrived in the Chadian capital aboard a special flight from Yaounde (Cameroon), explained that his country "encourages" good relations with its neighbors, especially with Chad, which he said has several links with Nigeria.

Touching on the closure of the border between Nigeria and Chad since the coup d'etat which toppled President Shehu Shagari, Gen Bali explained that the border will be reopened "as soon as possible," adding that his country is "aware of the problems of its neighboring countries."

AFP: French General Denies Remarks on Chad

NC171805 Paris AFP in English 1757 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Paris, Jan 17 (AFP) — Brigadier-General Jean Poli, commander of the French contingent in Chad, today denied that he had accused Libya of annexing the northern half of the country.

General Poli was quoted yesterday by correspondents of AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE and the Paris daily *LE MONDE* as saying that northern Chad was in the process of being annexed by Libya, which was imposing its own administration there and controls on the local population.

In a statement put out today through the French Defence Ministry, General Poli said he was "surprised by the words which were attributed to me" in "a private conversation with two journalists."

The general said he had expressed the view that Libyan troops and those of ousted Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei were "establishing their positions" in the north.

Brigadier-General Poli commands 3,000 French troops holding a line across the middle of the country to prevent the further advance south of Libyan and Goukouni forces opposed to Chadian President Hissein Habre.

CONGO

Angolan Foreign Minister Comments on Relations

AB171420 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] In an interview granted last night to Martin Tchabogo, Angolan Minister of External Affairs Paulo Jorge spoke particularly of the past and future of relations between Angola and Congo:

[Begin Jorge recording] My visit to the People's Republic of Congo is both a meeting with the present and the past — a meeting with the present because we are going to foster the harmonious relations between our states, between our two revolutions. We are promoting the development of our respective parties toward common goals. It is a meeting with the past because, as you know, during our MPLA-led national liberation struggle, the People's Republic of Congo was the rear guard — if not the sound base — of our (?forces) [words indistinct]. During (?my stay), I will hold extensive talks with my friend and colleague Pierre Nze, and with other Congolese authorities, if I am given the opportunity. [end recording]

ZAIRE

Government Suspends Air Agreement With Soviet Union

AB171220 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1140 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 16 Jan (AZAP) — The Executive Council has suspended the air agreement signed in April 1974 between Zaire and the Soviet Union under which the Soviet airline Aeroflot was allowed to land in Kinshasa, it was learned on Monday from sources close to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The Zairian decision follows the violation by the other signatory of one of the clauses banning Aeroflot from carrying passengers or luggage from Lagos to the Zairian capital. Lagos is considered in the agreement purely a technical stopover point and Aeroflot does not have the right to traffic operations between there and Zaire.

In fact, last Wednesday, an Aeroflot airliner embarked passengers and bags from the Nigerian federal capital, some of which were booby-trapped and exploded at the Ndjili Airport, partially destroying the customs office and all the bags being held at customs. The route of the aircraft was Moscow-Vienna-Tripoli-Lagos- Kinshasa.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Senegal Removes Offshore Oil-Prospecting Equipment

AB171430 Paris AFP in French 1007 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Bissau, 17 Jan (AFP) — The oil-prospecting equipment set up by Senegal in a maritime zone which is disputed by Guinea-Bissau was removed on Saturday, official sources from Bissau said on Tuesday. The company in charge of the prospecting, Petro-Canada, removed its equipment and its personnel, according to a communique released by the office of the prime minister of Bissau. Bissau has strongly protested the presence of two prospecting ships, claiming that Senegal had violated the agreement that neither country would carry out prospecting within the disputed zone until the border dispute is legally settled.

According to the communique, the decision by the Canadian company is "a response to the efforts made by the Bissau Government to find a peaceful, fair, and equitable solution to the border dispute within the framework of the policy of cooperation, good neighborliness, and peace in the subregion." The dispute, which has already been brought before the International Court of Justice of the Hague, was examined on Monday by the heads of state of Senegal and Guinea-Bissau in Rabat, Morocco, where they are attending the Islamic summit.

IVORY COAST

Minister Lauds New Education Agreement With France

AB171108 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0745 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] France and Ivory Coast yesterday signed an agreement worth 99.25 million CFA francs in the field of higher education and professional training. The French ambassador to Ivory Coast who signed the agreement in the name of his country said that France has always contributed to the training of people. As for National Education Minister Balla Keita, it is a laudable action:

[Begin Keita recording] We are aware of France's effort to support cooperation between our two nations in this international situation which is unfavorable for our states by increasing the assistance that the industrialized countries can grant to developing countries like ours. We commend France for continuing — despite this worldwide crisis — to assist its friends in essential areas such as higher education and professional training. By giving priority to training institutions and by making sure that the education they provide can help secure employment, the Ivory Coast is trying to develop, in the broadest sense of the word, economically, culturally, and socially. [end recording]

LIBERIA

Witness Charges U.S., USSR Involved in Coup Plot

AB171500 Paris AFP in English 1449 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Monrovia, Jan 17 (AFP) — The United States and the Soviet Union were to give "financial" and other support for an alleged coup plot against Liberian head of state Samuel Doe, the first state witness told the special military tribunal trying 16 accused here yesterday.

Joe Saye Cooper told the tribunal that former Liberian Armed Forces Commanding General Thomas Quiwonkpa, himself implicated in the coup plot but still at large, told him that the two superpowers had promised to help the alleged coup plotters if they encountered problems during the takeover. He did not elaborate on what form that aid might take.

In another development, two senior members of the ruling military council have been suspended indefinitely for violating Mr Doe's order that no council member should investigate cases, whether legal, economic, administrative or political. Colonel Larry Borteh is reported to have re-investigated a land [words indistinct], on which the Supreme Court ruled in August 1982, while Major Joseph Tubman was suspended for investigating civil cases at his office.

This is the second time Col. Borteh has been suspended. The first was in 1982 for "repeated misrepresentation of a council member."

Gen Podier Fines Paper for 'Misinforming' People

AB172132 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Vice head of state Major General J. Nicholas Podier has fined the management of the *DAILY OBSERVER* newspaper $1,500 for what he termed assassination of character and misinforming the Liberian people about events in the country. Gen Podier ordered the management to pay the amount into government coffers by 3 pm today or face indefinite closure upon failure to do so.

Announcing the move at a press briefing in his Capitol building office in Monrovia today, Maj Gen Podier said at yesterday's press conference during which he ordered the suspension of People's Redemption Council [PRC] member Colonel Larry Borteh, he did not say Col Borteh had violated the head of state's mandate as reported today by the *DAILY OBSERVER* newspaper (?but) simply said that Col Borteh had in the past overruled the decision of the Supreme Court and it was for that reason that he was suspended, the vice head of state explained.

Gen Podier mandated the Ministry of Justice along with the Joint Security Unit to ensure that the fine is paid by today. The *DAILY OBSERVER* newspaper, in a front-page story captioned, "Another PRC Member Suspended; Borteh Accused of Violating Doe's Mandate," reported today that senior PRC member Col Larry Borteh has been suspended indefinitely for not adhering to the head of state's mandate that no member of the Council should investigate cases, whether legal, economic, administrative, or political in nature.

At the press briefing today, the *DAILY OBSERVER* reporter who covered yesterday's press conference was asked to produce the tape recording of the press conference for replay. During the replay, it was discovered that nowhere in the press conference did

the vice head of state accuse Col Borteh of violating the vice head of state's [as heard] mandate.

MALI

Perez de Cuellar Arrives, Meets Acting President

AB172115 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Excerpt] UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar arrived in Bamako this afternoon for a 2-day official visit to Mali. The secretary general and his wife were welcomed by the acting president of government, who is also the deputy secretary of the party, General Amadou Baba Diarra. The secretary general of the United Nations was also welcomed by members of the diplomatic and consular corps as well as the president of the Mali United Nations Association.

NIGERIA

Buhari Briefs Diplomats on New Regime's Policies

AB172050 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, today granted a separate audience to seven foreign envoys in Nigeria. They are the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, the Soviet Union, West Germany, and France. The others are the British high commissioner and the charge d'affaires of the United States and Japan.

A Radio Nigeria State House correspondent reports that the head of state briefed the envoys on the economic and foreign policies of the new administration. He said that General Buhari stressed the importance the Nigerian Government attaches to its relations with the seven countries.

On their part, the envoys reiterated their support for the new administration and spoke of the need for active cooperation between Nigeria and their respective countries.

Buhari To Swear In Executive Council Ministers

AB181210 Lagos NAN in English 1150 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 18 (NAN) — The Supreme Military Council today in Lagos approved the appointment of 18 ministers who will form the new Federal Executive Council. The ministerial list shows that seven of them are military personnel while the remaining 11 are civilians representing each of the 19 states in the federation with the exception of Bendel State.

The ministers, Expected to be sworn in later today by the head of state, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari, include the minister of defense, Maj Gen D.Y. Bali (Plateau), Brig M. Magoro (Sokoto), Maj Gen M. Vatsa (Niger), Lt Col I. Abdullahi (Kano), Brig S.A. Omojokun (Ondo), Group Captain S. Omerua (Imo), Commodore P.S. Koshoni (Lagos).

Others are Mr C. Offodile, (Anambra), already designated minister of justice and attorney-general of the Federation, Alhaji Ibrahim Yarima Abdullahi (Bauchi), Alhaji Abdullahi Ibrahim, S.A.N. (Benue), Dr Bukar Shaib (Borno), Dr Mahmud Tukur (Gongola), and Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman (Kaduna). The rest are the director-general of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari (Kwara), Dr O.O. Soleye (Ogun), Chief M.S. Adign (Oyo), Prof Tam David-West (Rivers), and Dr E.N. Nsan (Cross River).

Maj Gen Bali, Brig Magoro, Maj Gen Vatsa and C. Offodile are members of the Supreme Military Council. The portfolios of the remaining 16 ministers are expected to be made known immediately after the swearing-in ceremony later today.

Police Force Undergoing 'Housecleaning Operation'

AB172055 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] A housecleaning operation aimed at producing a disciplined police organization is now going on in the Nigerian Police Force. The inspector general of police, Mr Etim Inyang, who announced this in Lagos today, said that the exercise was in line with a directive from the commander-in-chief of the armed forces in consonance with the ideals of the new military administration.

Mr Inyang stated that in this connection efforts were being made to reeducate and reorient members of the forces on the role of a professional police officer. Mr Inyang stated that there would be an intensive drive for higher discipline through close supervision and elimination of unsuitable elements from the force which may include dismissal or termination where necessary. He said that officers or groups within the force who took part in certain specific actions leading to the staining of the image of the force would be investigated. Mr Inyang further disclosed that there would be an all-out war on corruption in the force as well as in the country, because a corrupt police force could only exist in a corrupt society. He assured that fair play and justice would be restored in promotion matters and other benefits.

He then appealed to members of the public for their cooperation and understanding. The inspector general also said that efforts were being made by the various security agencies in the country to ensure that all the wanted politicians who have left the country were repatriated.

Former Head of State Obasanjo Approves of Coup

AB171211 Paris AFP in English 1134 GMT 17 Jan 84

[By Edward Poultney]

[Text] Otta, southwest Nigeria, Jan 17 (AFP) — General Olusegun Obansanjo, the man who handed Nigeria back to civilian rule in 1979, approves of the New Year's Eve military coup which put an end to the mismanaged government of President Shehu Shagari.

And he believes that for some time yet "we'll probably have to accept that the military will be a major factor to reckon with in the political life of this country."

The general, who was head of state for three and a half years, is now a full-time farmer on land about a one-hour drive from Lagos. He has a reputation for working long and full days organizing the pig and poultry business that he started from scratch after retiring from the Army when the civilians came back.

In an unhurried interview, nevertheless squeezed between farm business and talks with a constant stream of visitors, the former head of state conceded that "something had to give." He said: "The situation in the country was becoming really unbearable for the average man, not to talk of the less-than-average people in this country."

He admitted to having had mixed feelings when he first heard about the takeover, but only because of the role he played in trying to get multi-party politics to work in this potentially rich oil-exporting country, with its 100 million people.

Civilian rule was "something I felt would be permanent and a lasting feature of our political interaction in this country, something I thought would be made to work, because you can imagine that if you have given time and effort to something and that thing had to be shattered, you feel a sense of loss."

But, he said, "I have come to the conclusion, painfully though, that democracy as it is understand by the West is not what we can toy with now; it is something we cannot afford."

Describing the return to military rule as part of Nigeria's nation-building process, he said: "This is a country which needs to be governed."

"I believe that we have to look at our society and devise for ourselves a system that has everybody chipping in to participate in one form or another. A system that gives us direction, that gives us decisive and purposeful leadership and galvanizes us together as a nation. I don't believe that the ritual of voting every four years really does that."

In response to Western criticism of the latest military takeover, Gen Obasanjo said that "if the Western media see the death of democracy in Nigeria because the military takes over, yet Nigerians themselves don't see it that way, that speaks for itself. It means that we are being judged by a standard that is foreign to us."

The transformation from general to farmer was apparently an easy one for Gen Obansanjo, who at 46 is still one of Nigeria's top squash players. He moves about the farm at a brisk stroll rather than at the march, dressed in shorts, a sports hat and dusty shoes. There is nothing on show to recall his army past or even his continuing role as a statesmen still seen at international conferences.

He has retained a great affection for the officers he served with, and many of the new leaders were in his administration. "I think we are lucky to have these boys," he said. "They are all responsible people. The alternative was probably complete chaos, civil disobedience instigated by the workers."

Asked what he thought of growing criticism of the slow speed with which the new rulers appear to be moving in the public arena, the general said: "If what people are complaining about is that they are not coming out with an economic program then I sympathise with the boys."

When he was in office it was easier to swiftly produce a program designed to restore the credibility of the military, because the army leaders then were replacing another military administration which had reneged on a promise to return to civilian government. This time the problems were essentially economic ones, and "they may have thought about it, but they will need a certain amount of input (of data) to come up with a really fine economic program."

Gen Obansanjo thinks that "people have some nostalgia" for the swift and decisive actions taken in the early days of the last military government. "Probably the boys can move a bit faster" than they had moved so far, he added.

The general talks easily and is not usually short of an answer, but when asked what the civilians achieved during their four and a half years in office there was a long pause before he replied: "Well, I don't really know. Over that period what was left and what was made and borrowed wouldn't be anything less than 100 billion dollars. I don't know what we can show for it."

Returning to the constitution drawn up by civilians during his own time in office, Gen Obasanjo said: "I don't believe that what happened in the past was entirely the fault of the system. I believe that the 1979 constitution could have been made to work, that it was that fault of the political leaderships.

"As we say the military, there are no bad soldiers, only bad officers. I think the same applies to civilians."

SENEGAL

France's Mauroy Increases Drought Relief Aid

PM171454 Paris LE MONDE in French 14 Jan 84 p 3

[Alain Rollat dispatch: "Mr Mauroy Announces Increase in Food Aid"]

[Text] Dakar — The first day of Mr Pierre Mauroy's official visit to Senegal on Thursday, 12 January, did not prompt the spontaneous demonstrations of support which Mr Francois Mitterrand's visit sparked off in the streets in May 1982. But the premier too received a welcome in Dakar characterized by the "spirit of socialist fraternity" of which the two governments are now taking advantage in their relations. The Senegalese president gave his guest a warm welcome and the two men paid each

other marked tributes before their first round of talks Thursday morning and the ceremony at which the premier was decorated with the Great Cross of the Senegalese Order of Merit.

The initial results of the talks confirmed this atmosphere of understanding. Mr Mauroy stated that France's effort to help Senegal "will not wane." "Faced with the aggravation of the world crisis, France and Senegal must show increased and new solidarity both between themselves and on the international stage," he stressed. In practice, the French Government confirmed its intention of helping Senegal meet the fiscal deadlines imposed on it by the austerity plan it implemented last August in order to gain the IMF's support. An advance of Fr54 million on a new adjustment loan scheduled for 1984 has already been granted to Dakar by the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation. Mr Mauroy also stated that France will maintain the numbers of its technical aid workers "as long as the Senegalese so desire" and in any case until they can provide people to take over the jobs concerned.

Above all the premier announced that France has decided to increase the food aid planned to help Senegal, a victim of the drought, to bridge the gap, going so far as to deliver 5,000 metric tons of wheat. The delivery will be completed as required. Mr Mauroy also announced that the French Central Agricultural Credit Fund has finally agreed to take part in establishing an agricultural credit network in Senegal like those which exist in other French-speaking countries in the region.

The 206 Senegalese Talbot Workers

The premier also thinks it "vital to support the political rapprochement between Senegal and Gambia." France will finance the establishment of a secondary school and a cultural center equipped with a modern-languages laboratory in Banjul in Gambia. Finally, anticipating the Senegalese leaders' anxieties, Mr Mauroy expressed his desire to deal with the 206 Senegalese workers among those sacked by Talbot in Poissy "case by case." Since large numbers of those semiskilled workers have expressed the intention of returning home, it has been agreed to study the possibility of helping with the necessary adjustments by directing those workers toward the agricultural and food sector, small enterprises, or transportation. France will agree to finance the economic projects of those concerned. Following a meeting with her Senegalese counterpart, Mrs Georgina Dufoix, secretary of state for immigrants, announced in particular the reopening in Dakar of the former National Emigration Office, which will henceforth be concerned with helping people who want to return.

The examination of international matters did not produce any disagreement. After recalling the policy pursued in Chad, Mr Mauroy was anxious to explain the disagreement between France and the United States with regard to the situation in Namibia. "In southern Africa, France, like Senegal, unreservedly condemns an odious regime based on racial discrimination. It condemns the occupation of Namibia. That is why we firmly reject the idea, introduced by some people, of 'linkage' to solve the Namibian problem. Indeed, this alleged precondition amounts to confusing two problems of a different nature and allowing the fatal spiral of violence to develop in Angola without any curb." Mr Mauroy also stated that in Central America "the most powerful state in the world must be able to resist the temptation to abuse its power in that region of the world. That is also true in Africa," he added, "with the threats of destabilization."

Text of Mauroy Speech

AB171630 Paris Diplomatic Information Service in French 1245 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Speech delivered by French Premier Pierre Mauroy at a dinner given in his honor by Senegalese Foreign Minister Moustapha Niasse in Dakar on 12 January]

[Text] Mr Minister of State, ladies and gentlemen and ministers, Mr Doyen of the diplomatic corps, ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen: It is with pleasure that I revisit Senegal today. As you have just kindly recalled, Mr Minister of State, I have already had many opportunities to visit your country, where I have many friends whom I am happy to meet again.

I wish particularly to salute the town of Saint-Louis which I shall have the opportunity to visit and which has been twinned with Lille since 1980. Just 1 month ago, I again passed through Dakar on my way to Argentina. For the past 2 and 1/2 years, I have had many opportunities to hold discussions with your president, Abdou Diouf. And you received President Francois Mitterrand here in May 1982.

Today, with Presidents Diouf and Mitterrand, our two countries have achieved a political rapprochement that has further strengthened our traditional bonds of friendship. As far as I am concerned, Mr Minister of State, this is my first official visit to Senegal as premier. I wish to thank you at once for your very warm and kind reception.

I wish to express to you my pleasure at seeing you again, at seeing again the militants of the struggles we undertook together, as well as the experienced government officials now performing such important functions.

This visit must be for us an opportunity to expand the French-Senegalese dialogue, a very old and deep dialogue which demonstrates the exceptional friendship uniting our two countries. Of course, this dialogue concerns our numerous bilateral exchanges. But it also concerns the international situation in general.

Often the purpose of official visits between countries is to settle disputes and difficulties, but as far as France and Senegal are concerned, for the past 23 years they have been a demonstration of goodwill. The very frequency of our contacts underlines the strength of the bonds uniting us. Although your country is a nonaligned African country with a great majority of Moslems [words indistinct], there exist between our two peoples a similarity of ideals (?which leads them) to serve the same causes.

I recall with emotion that twice during this century, many Senegalese citizens fought heroically to help France safeguard its freedom and defend democracy. Many of my compatriots have

a particular admiration and affection for Senegal because of its attachment not only to respecting but also to promoting human rights. As you well know, France has a special place for Senegal in its African policy. As for Senegal, through a free choice that honors us, it has decided not only to maintain but also to increase relations [words indistinct] with France. France considers this situation a precious asset that it must safeguard and develop.

Most often, our affinities are characterized by the same way in which we perceive and approach problems. Allow me to mention an additional and recent similarity: The change of leadership in your country 3 (?years) ago, which was an example for Africa, was followed by the May 1981 revival in France [date of the Socialist Party's accession to power]. There is no doubt that our feelings have never been so close.

Moreover, in the face of the aggravation of the world crisis affecting all countries and more particularly those of the South, France and Senegal must strengthen the cooperation between them on the international scene as well. For example, why should we not make the fight against desert encroachment, which affects your country and many of its neighbors, the objective of a major program of cooperation between the North and the South? Why should we not, through this means, promote regional cooperation among the countries concerned?

On Saturday, I shall visit the Diama dam, which already constitutes an element of response. But a desert is not only a dead land; it is also a disease and must be treated as such. To fail to treat it like that is to allow the disease to develop. It is necessary for life to regain the lost ground. It is necessary for trees, which are symbols of life, to grow anew. And for this to happen, it is necessary to plant them. Is this not a task for which energies and people of goodwill should be mobilized?

It is in this same spirit that France has been trying to make the idea of the need for a redistribution of riches prevail within the framework of the North-South dialogue. In fact, we believe that it is impossible to allow the world market laws to continue to enrich the most wealthy and impoverish the poorest. Such a situation can only engender anarchy and injustice. These disparities can create more imbalance with its trail of misery, hatred, and violence. This is why France is anxious to demonstrate its (?solidarity) with the developing countries, beginning with those which, as you can see, are (?passing through a difficult situation) because of some terrible constraints: climatic hazards, the world economic crisis, and the deterioration of the prices of their export products.

I am therefore informing you that France will continue its efforts. Grants from the Aid and Cooperation Fund will be increased by nearly 14 percent in 1984. The Central Fund for Economic Cooperation will be authorized to grant financial aid that will increase by 12 percent. The less advanced countries will receive higher grants, and the French Government will aim yearly towards the attainment of the goal it has set: that is, increasing our contribution to public assistance for development to 0.7 percent of our gross national product by 1988.

Apart from what it is doing on the international scene and within the European context to respond to the preoccupations of developing countries, France is also determined to show its solidarity with your country in a concrete way. It is therefore not surprising that cooperation that is [words indistinct] between France and Senegal is — to borrow President Abdou Diouf's excellent expression — so sound and so diversified. It consists mainly in participation in several ventures. The aim of these ventures is on one hand to improve the living and working conditions of the Senegalese, and on the other hand, to undertake big projects aimed at giving a solid foundation to development in Senegal.

The Diama dam and the valorization of the Senegal River, participation in the chemical industries of Senegal, and fishing projects in Casamance are the best examples of this cooperation, which according to Mr Minister of State amounts to 2 billion French francs. [passage indistinct] They appreciate — several of them have told me so — the quality of the welcome which is equalled in very few countries. These technical assistants will remain with you for as long as you deem it necessary. I am referring in particular to the French teachers. I told President Diouf this morning that we will wait for Senegalese teachers to replace them before phasing them out. This is why we would like to lay emphasis on the training of teachers in order to make the necessary takeover easier.

At the same time, and still concerning education, we are increasing our aid to Gambia. We are going to participate in the construction of a high school and cultural center in Banjul, which will include a language laboratory.

In spite of the exemplary and privileged nature of the cooperation existing between our two countries, this does not prevent Senegal from diversifying its relations with other countries, which are very good.

In 20 years you have acquired an international dimension both in Africa and in the world. In this regard, France feels close to and friendly with Senegal and the Senegalese because of the interest and understanding they have for the problems of others. This applies to Chad, in particular.

For years your country has been making appreciable contributions towards all initiatives aimed at finally solving this dramatic conflict. In this regard, I must recall that for several months Senegalese soldiers played a noteworthy role in the peace mission of the inter-African peacekeeping force that was sent to Chad by the OAU.

It is in this same spirit that France set up a deterrent force in response to requests by the legal authorities of that country, and we took this initiative with the full consent of several African states which are as committed as we are to the inviolability of the borders inherited from the era of colonization. Our objective is to restore peace in that country. Our presence there has had the effect of stopping the fighting almost entirely. That is why we are hoping today that the negotiations begun under the auspices of the OAU will lead to real national reconciliation in Chad, with respect for its independence and territorial integrity, so that —

as we promised — our troops may leave that country immediately. I think that we share similar views on all these issues.

Also, in southern Africa, our two countries unreservedly condemn an odious regime based on racial discrimination. They also condemn the occupation of Namibia.

This last question raises, in Senegal as in our country, a lot of concern. As far as France is concerned, it has tried to play a positive role within the Contact Group by relaunching the negotiations in September 1981. Today, we are convinced that the major technical problems ensuing from the implementation of Resolution 435 have almost been resolved.

That is why we have on many occasions rejected the linkage idea introduced by certain quarters to solve the Namibian issue. This so-called prerequisite is in fact meant to confuse two different issues and allows the violence in Angola to assume greater proportions. Unfortunately, we have just had an illustration — and a tragic illustration — of this aggression these past few days with the aggression of the South African Army.

In all these African conflicts, our two governments have been pleading for the respect of the territorial integrity of states. They denounce foreign intervention.

I can also cite other problems for which our attitudes are inspired by the same political contacts. It is the case for the Western Sahara, where we support the implementation of the OAU resolutions. It is also the case in Lebanon where, within the framework of the UNIFIL [UN Interim Forces in Lebanon], Senegalese and French soldiers are trying to carry out a mission of peace. It is also the case in the analysis of relations between the two superpowers, neither of whom do we permit to dictate our policies. Finally, it is the same case within international organizations when it comes to defending people's freedom and defending the cause of peace. In all these issues, France and Senegal have always been on each other's side.

That is why we are sincerely very happy to see Senegal assuming a greater place on the international scene. That is why we are happy with the respect which [words indistinct]. We are happy to note that for 20 years, Senegal continues to be guided by leaders of the highest caliber.

France, like Senegal, intends to fight against injustice and inequality in North-South relations. Because of the tension they generate, such marks of injustice and inequality contribute to insecurity in the world. The world aspires to peace. This applies to the Middle East where the international community must assume its responsibility. It also applies to Central America, where the answer is not to fight but rather to mobilize forces against this terrible sickness — underdevelopment. The most powerful nation in the world should know to resist the temptation of misusing its force in this region of the world. It also applies to Africa, where destabilization threats also exist. The answer to these threats can be found in safeguarding borders, promoting development, and strengthening the continental organization. Senegal's opinion is always precious and its help is a determining factor in analyzing this situation. Among old friends who understand one another and who listen to one another's advice, each one knows that he can learn more from the other's advice.

It is therefore in this spirit that I listened attentively this morning to President Abdou Diouf's advice concerning the major international issues that we discussed. It is rare to find a country like yours which pays so much attention to African, European, and world issues. It is rare to find a head of state whose popularity extends in such a short time as President Abdou Diouf's.

Finally, it is rare to find a foreign affairs minister like you, who has shown so much discretion and reflection in finding solutions to such thorny conflicts as those of the Middle East, Western Sahara, or even Cambodia, and who also shows so much concern to see Africa united within a renewed and strengthened Organization of African Unity. Certainly, at the same time, your country has suffered from the hazards of this world — the effects of the world economic crisis for which you are not responsible. But be assured that at this difficult moment, France is with you, not in words but in deeds. Under the direction of the government that they have freely elected, your people are fortunate to be young and dedicated to accelerating their development. I see in this a great hope for Senegal. Long live France! Long live Senegal!

SIERRA LEONE

Charges Brought Against 3 for 'Riotous Conduct'

AB171850 Paris AFP in English 1642 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Freetown, Jan 17 (AFP) — Two students of troubled Fourah Bay College appeared in court here today after widespread rumours that one of them had died in police custody. Josiah Lahai, 24, and Josiah Kargobai, 25, along with Sheriff Carew, 29, who is not a student, denied a charge of riotous conduct, which carries a sentence of up to 18 months in prison. Mr Lahai, an arts student who was widely rumoured yesterday to have died in police custody, was charged separately with stoning and damaging the official car of Vice-President Christian Kamara-Taylor. If found guilty Mr Lahai could go to jail for two years. The prosecution [words indistinct] the grounds that there were further cases involving the accused, and they could interfere with investigations. Meanwhile, Student Union President Daniel Yamba Alaba Kamara, 24, is being sought by police, who refused to [word indistinct].

A special five-man commission of inquiry is due to start work here next week into the causes of "episodes of indiscipline" at Fourah Bay since 1977. The college was finally closed last Thursday following demonstrations spearheaded by the students which degenerated into serious disturbances on the opening day of the national conference of the ruling All Peoples Congress (APC) Party. However, the commission was expected to have difficulty collecting evidence from students. Many have gone home to their villages, while others are from neighbouring countries in Africa and elsewhere. Senior police officers also met today to discuss the situation, but they rejected a theory that the shooting last Friday of a visiting Norwegian businessman was connected with the earlier rioting.

UPPER VOLTA

People's Courts Try 3 Ex-Ministers for Embezzlement

AB172120 Paris AFP in English 1856 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Ouagadougou, Jan 17 (AFP) — Three ministers under previous regimes appeared today before "people's courts" here and in the western town of Bobo Dioulasso, accused of "embezzlement or dissipation" of public funds. They were among 198 people alleged to have concealed or only partially declared wealth amassed during the Third Republic of 1978-80 or the regime of the Military Committee of Recovery for National Progress (CMRPN) of 1980-82.

The trial of the three, which is expected to last several days, came amid signs of government annoyance at the acquittal earlier this month of former President Sangoule Lamizana.

Third Republic Posts and Telecommunications Minister Paul Ismaël Ouédraogo, who was accused of offences concerning some 110,000 dollars, appeared in court at Bobo Dioulasso, 360 kilometers (225 miles) west of here.

Issa Pale Welte and Ido Battien Bominique, respectively minister and deputy minister of rural development under the Third Republic and the CMRPN, were tried at Ouagadougou. Mr Pale Welte was accused embezzling some 360,000 dollars, the state [words indistinct].

In a reference to the acquittal of former President Sangoule Lamizan on charges of embezzling more than a million dollars, the government press yesterday called on the people's court to show more "vigilance."

The weekly, *CARREFOUR AFRICAIN*, indicated that the acquittal should be "the first and the last", while the national radio said that the courts should not "follow the constraints of bourgeois law which requires written proof above all," believed to be a reference to the fact that General Lamizana was able to give receipts for part of the money he had spent out of a special fund.

The radio also warned that "the demands of the people (?might) not be met by parodies of trials."

The people's courts were set up by the radical military government of Captain Thomas Sankara after it seized power in August. They are composed of professional judges assisted by members of the Armed Forces and a majority of the local revolutionary defence committees.

Among those still to be tried are CMRPN Head Colonel Saye Zerbo, former National Assembly Speaker Gerard Kango Ouedraogo, and former Prime Minister Joseph Conombo.

RSA, Mozambique, Portugal To Meet Over Cahora Bassa
MB180930 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 17 January 84 p 1

[By Patrick Laurence, political editor]

[Text] Maputo. The scene was set in Maputo yesterday for tripartite talks in Lisbon between South Africa, Mozambique and Portugal on the multimillion rand Cahora Bassa hydro-electric scheme — and for another round of talks between South Africa and Mozambique on economic matters.

Discussions in Maputo yesterday went without any major hitches and the mood in the South African camp was one of confidence that the foundation had been laid for the restoration of the close economic ties which once existed between the two countries.

The anticipated entry of Portugal into talks on Cahora Bassa flows from Portugal's administration of the scheme and its huge financial stake of about R740-million in it. The complex was constructed during Portugal's colonial rule of Mozambique.

Sabotage of Cahora Bassa by allegedly South African-backed insurgents of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) means that it cannot sell electricity to South Africa, which delays redemption by Mozambique of the R740-million debt to Portugal.

Portugal, a major victim of the sabotage, played a key role in initiating the rapprochment between South Africa and Mozambique when the Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, visited Portugal late last year.

It began with the meeting in Swaziland shortly before Christmas between the South African and Mozambican teams and was further consolidated in Maputo yesterday.

The anticipated next round of bilateral talks on economic matters will probably see South African participation at ministerial level, official sources said yesterday.

Yesterday the South Africa delegation on economic matters was led by the Director General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Han Van Dalsen. The Mozambican team was headed by Major-General Jacinto Veloso, Minister in the Presidency for Economic Affairs. Leaders of the teams in the talks on tourism were Mr Danie Hough, chairman of the SA Tourism Board, and Mr Antonio Materula, Mozambique Secretary of State for Tourism.

The talks on economic matters started with a plenary session but later delegates broke into smaller teams to discuss transport, migrant labour, agriculture, fisheries, industry and commerce, finance, tourism and energy.

Gen Veloso told the South Africans: "We interpret your presence in Maputo...as indicative of the intention of the South African Government to engage in activities to put an end to violence and escalating war."

He added: "The historic relationship between Mozambique and South Africa shows that there have always been common interests strongly manifested in the economic and trade context."

In his reply Mr Van Dalsen assured the Mozambicans that South Africa wanted to restore the economic cooperation which had existed in the past.

According to an official statement, the tourism talks included discussions on "visa and immigration procedures" — presumably with a view to speeding them up — and on the possibility of introducing "package tours" for South Africans and for overseas visitors to South Africa.

Meanwhile, the South African and Mozambican delegations at yesterday's security talks in Pretoria discussed measures to ensure the territories of neither state should be used as a springboard for aggression and violent actions against the other, reports Gerald Reilly.

A joint communique issued in Pretoria last night said: "Following a meeting in Swaziland on December 12 between ministers of both countries, a delegation met at Pretoria yesterday for discussion on practical ways and means of achieving peace and security and good relationships between the two countries on the basis of internationally established principles of relations between sovereign states.

"They considered measures to be taken in order that the territories of neither state should serve as a springboard for aggression and violent action against the other.

"They also discussed practical mechanisms to ensure the implementation of the objective as well as the continuity of the process."

ANGOLA

MPLA Scores RSA Incursion, Restates Truce Conditions
MB180917 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Statement issued by the MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau on 23d anniversary of the beginning of the armed struggle of national liberation — date and place not given]

[Text] The Angolan people are about to commemorate one of the most significant dates of our history — 4 February 1961 — which marks the beginning of the armed struggle of national liberation. This event, coupled with the development of the struggle for liberation, enabled us to gain something that is very dear to us — independence.

We are living a crucial moment in our history as an independent nation, in which not only the future of the Angolan revolution is being decided, but also the end of colonialism and apartheid, and the development of the struggle for the economic liberation of Africa. The peoples of the southern region of our continent, who are supported by all democratic and progressive forces of the world, are engaged in these battles and are certain that they hold

the keys to a lasting peace in this part of Africa. The Angolan people will thus have more favorable conditions to transform the country's great potential wealth into effective wealth and make the revolutionary process move even faster.

Due to its revolutionary ideological, political, and organizational principles, and the character that it has instilled to the Angolan revolution since its beginning, the MPLA has been the target of imperialist maneuvers. Such attacks have intensified with the transformation of the MPLA into a party, with the formation of the People's Republic of Angola, with the proclamation of the socialist path of development, and with the growing active role played by our state in international relations while respecting the principles of peace, nonalignment, anti-imperialism and proletarian internationalism.

Thus, the policy of racist South Africa, which is guided by the U.S. Administration, is designed not only to assure a neocolonial solution for Namibia, but also and mainly to destroy the Angolan revolution and the vanguard of the working classes — the MPLA-Labor Party. Only this explains the reason for the various absurd excuses that have been presented up to now by the South African regime in order not to implement UN Resolution 435 — namely the existence of SWAPO guerrilla bases and the presence of Cuban internationalist troops in Angola.

The 1975 invasion, which began before the proclamation of the independence of Angola, undoubtedly showed that the main objective of the foreign policy of racist South Africa and American imperialism had been and still is to crush the revolutionary movement of our country.

In the present regional situation, there is close coordination of the policies of the Reagan administration and the South African regime as a result of the American strategy, which is followed by the reactionary circles of the NATO member states, to fight revolutionary forces throughout the world. This strategy is responsible for the serious aggravation of the international situation which endangers peace and international security and is contrary to the interests of all peoples.

The People's Republic of Angola has been giving proof of its spirit of goodwill in the search for a peaceful and internationally accepted solution to the Namibian problem within the framework of UN Resolution 435. Against this policy, racist South Africa, belying its recent wishes for peace, has launched large-scale aggression to try to expand its occupation to an even greater part of the Angolan territory. The deaths and destruction that the South African racists have provoked in the martyred lands of Cunene and Cuando Cubango are still very fresh.

The MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau pays homage to the heroic People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] combatants who have given their lives to prevent the advance of the racist forces, and proudly hails all combatants who knew how to show the enemy our determination in defending our country's territorial integrity.

The widespread repudiation by the international community of this criminal aggression, following its exposure by the president of the People's Republic of Angola in a telegram addressed to the UN Secretary General, has culminated with the recent approval by the UN Security Council of a resolution which energically condemns racist South Africa for the illegal occupation of our territory, demands the cessation of all acts of aggression against our country, and reiterates the right of the People's Republic of Angola to take all measures designed to safeguard its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

The Political Bureau notes the racist South African regime's treachery when it addressed the UN Secretary General and proposed a 30-day truce period at the precise moment when it launched the new escalation of violent aggression against Chama, Caiundo, Cuvelai, and Mulondo. In order to establish a climate of peace in southern Africa, the Political Bureau reaffirms the possibility of establishing a 30-day truce period provided the terms include, as stated in the letter of the president of the People's Republic of Angola to the UN secretary general, SWAPO's agreement, the withdrawal of South Africa's military units from the Angolan territory, and South Africa's solemn agreement to begin the implementation of UN Resolution 435 within the following 15 days without conditions foreign to its contents.

The aggressive nature of South Africa and its massive support to the UNITA puppet gangs has forced the People's Republic of Angola to continue paying special attention to improving its defensive capacity. The organizational measures that have already been taken, namely the creation of the regional military councils and the redistribution of leadership cadres, as well the success of military recruitment, have enabled the successful launching of a great offensive which is designed to eliminate the counterrevolutionaries. The examples of Cangamba and Mussende must be followed by all FAPLA units and command posts so that combat initiative is maintained and the enemy is isolated from the people and totally destroyed. The Political Bureau guides the defense and security forces in order to raise the level of fighting and political training, to improve the social conditions of the combatants, and to better the mechanisms for military recruitment so that our Armed Forces are in the constant state of fighting readiness neccessary to defend our independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and revolutionary gains.

On the occasion of the date that also marks the 2d anniversary of the joint statement issued by the governments of the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of Cuba, the MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau reaffirms its principles and hails the Cuban internationalists who, together with the Angolan people, have helped to build and defend the fatherland of Agostinho Neto with courage, heroism, and a spirit of sacrifice.

The interrelation of the defense of the fatherland and economic development must be viewed. Thus, in this year of defense and production, the central guideline to be followed by all organs of the party, state, and the mass organizations must be, as stated by Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, to organize an economy which supports the war and to wage war for the defense of the economy. The organization of the economy to support the war will have to be carried out at three levels: the direct support of the defense and security forces; the support of the people who suffer the consequences of the war, including the crippled, war

widows and orphans; and the enlightenment and mobilization of the people to strengthen the implementation of the socialist option, particularly to strengthen the worker-peasant alliance. In the year of defense and production, the party has an extremely important role to play in the mobilization of our people for the materialization of the main tasks, the armed defense of the economy and the increase in production. This will continue to demand better organization, more discipline, and stronger control.

The successful convening of the party's second municipal and provincial conferences were a significant step toward strengthening the leadership organs in those echelons. The improvements that were noted in the preparation of the conferences, the visits made by the Central Committee to the provincial committees, and the political awareness of the party members were some of the factors that contributed to the success of this important task. The Political Bureau instructs the party organs to carry out an assessment of the conferences that have been held in order to reflect upon the sucesses and possible failures, and to enable the introduction of organizational aspects to improve the realization of future conferences. The experiences gathered during the holding of the municipal and provincial conferences must be taken into account during the preparation for the first national party conference, which will serve as a preparatory conference to the Second MPLA-Labor Party Congress. Besides assessing the political, economic, social, and military activity that has been carried out since the first extraordinary congress, this conference will be responsible for preparing the draft theses projects to be presented to the congress.

On marking the 23d anniversary of the beginning of the armed struggle of national liberation, the MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau calls upon all our people to pay homage to the heroes who fell for the achievment of independence and the cause of the revolution by dedicating themselves with tenacity to the realization of the tasks that have been programmed for the present year: the defense of the fatherland and the increase in production, both essential conditions for the success of our fight for economic independence through socialism.

The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

The MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau.

MOZAMBIQUE

U.S. Senator Meets Machel, Urges Increased Aid

MB171854 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] A U.S. senator, John Danforth, has said he thinks the United States should increase its drought aid to Mozambique. Senator Danforth was speaking after a visit to Inhambane and Gaza Provinces and a meeting with President Samora Machel. Senator Danforth, who has now left Mozambique, said he would be speaking to President Reagan about what he described as a dramatic situation in the drought zone.

EEC To Supply Emergency Grant for Drought Relief

MB171602 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The EEC has decided to grant Mozambique more than 272,000 contos in aid to help the victims of the drought in our country. This aid follows the appeals made by the Mozambique Government to the international community that were reiterated by President Samora Machel on his recent state visit to Western Europe. According to a communique released in Maputo by the Embassy of France, one of the EEC member countries, the aid will be allocated to a number of emergency relief operations to be carried out in order to help the victims of the drought in Gaza and Inhambane Provinces.

This emergency aid was decided upon between 13 December 1983 and 6 January 1984 based on a joint report prepared by the seven embassies of EEC member countries in Maputo, as well as the EEC delegate in Swaziland, after visits to Gaza and Inhambane in November 1983.

Sofala Chief Dos Santos Addresses Training Course

MB171317 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] A total of 2,988 students and teachers completed their political-military and ideological training course yesterday. Major General Marcelino dos Santos, member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau and head of Sofala Province, presided over the closing session of the course and stressed its importance in the general context of the fight against underdevelopment. He said that the course constitutes the fundamental condition for the success of such a fight. This is the first self-defense course to include students and teachers from the secondary schools in the city of Beira, therefore one must fulfill the new responsibility that has been assigned, particularly in this phase of the liquidation of the armed bandits, no matter what one's position is, Maj Gen Marcelino dos Santos said. He added that, quote: From now on you are the vanguard. You are the model for all your colleagues, not only within the city of Beira, but also throughout all the districts in the province and the nation in general. You are militiamen; unquote.

Marcelino dos Santos called on those students and teachers who have just been trained to meet and study ways of implementing the principle of self-reliance, particularly with regard to this task of liquidating armed banditry, thus guaranteeing the security and tranquillity of their schools.

Antiapartheid Movement Head Comments on Visit

MB171840 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The president of the British Antiapartheid Movement, Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, said today in Maputo that he was certain Mozambique would never abandon its opposition to apartheid. Speaking to journalists just before he left the country at the end of a 3-day visit, the archbishop said his talks with Mozambique's deputy foreign minister, Daniel Mbanze, had

convinced him that Mozambique knew what it was doing in the talks with South Africa.

Mozambique clearly understood, he said, that unless apartheid was removed in South Africa there could be no peace in the region. Mozambique's commitment to defeating apartheid is absolute, Archbishop Huddleston said, and the talks with South Africa were aimed at seeing if there was a possibility of a peaceful way through. He said South Africa's policy toward its neighbors was to use force, then negotiations with the threat of more force, adding that the major responsibility for the situation lays with the Western powers for failing to restrain Pretoria.

The director of the World Campaign Against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa, Abdul Minti, who is accompanying the archbishop, said South Africa was trying to neutralize the Frontline States so that they do not support the ANC, but he added that on his tour of the Frontline States he found no indication of any change of policy toward the South African liberation movement, and certainly not in Mozambique.

Archbishop Huddleston and Mr Minti have now gone on to Tanzania, the last stop on their tour of the region.

NAMIBIA

3 SWAPO 'Terrorists' Killed in Kavango Area

MB171936 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] South-West Africa Territory Force headquarters has announced that three SWAPO terrorists have been shot dead near Nkurenkuru in Kavango. Two of the terrorists were shot dead last night, and the third was killed in follow-up operations this morning.

A Territory Force spokesman said operations against terrorists in the Kavango area had resulted in many of the terrorists fleeing to the Tsintsabis district north of Tsumeb. He said follow-up operations were already in progress in Tsintsabis.

SWANU Leader Denies Collaborating With RSA

MB171400 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1200 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The leader of a South-West African political party has dismissed claims that he is collaborating with South Africa. President of the South-West Africa National Union [SWANU], Moses Katjiuongua, says that allegations that he is a collaborator with South Africa and that he has deviated from his party's policies are unfounded.

In a statement released in Windhoek today, Katjiuongua says he will negotiate with the South African Government if and when necessary. SWANU, which has a Marxist-oriented constitution and is amongst the oldest of Namibia's nationalist movements, is participating in a multiparty conference to discuss the country's future. Dissident groups in SWANU have criticised Katjiuongua for leading SWANU into the multiparty conference. The conference has also been denounced by SWAPO as a South African-backed scheme. Katjiuongua says SWANU has been conducting talks with South Africa and the various administrator generals of South-West Africa long before he was president of the organization.

SOUTH AFRICA

Talks with Mozambique Considered 'Encouraging'

MB180739 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Station commentary: "The Maputo-Pretoria Talks"]

[Text] The most encouraging aspect of the top-level security talks between South Africa and Mozambique in Pretoria is the fact that the delegates agreed that neither state should serve as a springboard for violence against the other.

A short communique issued after the talks said discussion had centered on practical ways and means of achieving peace and security and good relationships between the two countries on the basis of internationally established principles of relations between sovereign states. There was also discussion of practical mechanism to ensure implementation of the objectives as well as continuity of the process.

At the same time talks were held in Maputo between negotiating teams from South Africa and Mozambique on various aspects of economic affairs, and it was agreed in principle that the close economic ties which once existed between the two countries could be restored.

All this is very encouraging. It illustrates that where there is talk there is hope. What is significant about the talks is that they were not merely general talks between the two countries. They involved working groups discussing specific subjects, security being the most vital. Only the successful outcome of the security talks will make possible any achievement in the other areas of negotiation.

While the delegates representing the two countries have agreed that neither state should serve as a springboard for violence against the other, this will have to be monitored and verified, and it is here that the problem lies. Further talks will be taking place after the delegations have reported back to their respective governments and monitoring mechanisms are sure to form an integral part of these talks.

There is no denying that the outcome of the talks between the working groups is encouraging, but there is still a long way to go. Trust on both sides will have to be built up, and this cannot be done overnight. But at least the two countries are getting together at top level and the long-term fruits can only be beneficial to both and, indeed, to the entire subcontinent.

Ciskei President's Brother Detained by Police

MB180729 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] A brother of Ciskei's President Lennox Sebe had been detained by Ciskeian Security Police. Mr Namba Sebe, the independent black state's former minister of transport, was arrested yesterday after recently being released on bail of 10,000 rand after appearing in court on charges of fraud and corruption. The new chief of the security police in Ciskei, Colonel Zebelon Makuzeni, confirmed the arrest but refused to give reasons for the order.

Another brother of President Sebe, Lieutenant General Charles Sebe, appeared in a Zwelitsha court on Monday on a treason charge. Mr Namba Sebe's son, (Khamai), and his niece, (Nothoti), were detained last week by Ciskeian security police.

Conference on Ties With Neighbor States Begins

MB171600 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] A high-level conference to discuss South Africa's relations with its neighbors began in Pietermaritzburg today. Delegates to the conference, which is being sponsored by the Boston-based World Peace Foundation and organized by the South African Institute for International Affairs, include 15 Americans and some 20 South Africans. Included among the American representatives is the American ambassador to South Africa, Mr Herman Nickel, and the former permanent American representative at the United Nations, Mr Don McHenry. The South African delegation includes Dr (Simon Brandt) of the Southern Africa Development Bank and the leader of the Progressive Federal Party, Dr van Zyl Slabbert.

It is believed that one of the main themes of the conference will be regional security in southern Africa, with particular attention on Soviet designs in the region.

SWAZILAND

Foreign Minister Discusses Relations With Mozambique

MB171748 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The minister for foreign affairs, Mr Richard Velaphi Dlamini, returned home yesterday evening after a 3-day working visit to the People's Republic of Mozambique. At a press conference this afternoon, the minister said that on arrival at the Lomahasha border post he had been met by the deputy minister for foreign affairs in Mozambique, Mr Mbanze, the Swaziland high commissioner in Maputo, Mr Christian Masuku, top officials of the region in Maputo, and the Mozambican community in the Lomahasha area.

The minister said after having been received, he reciprocated by thanking the community for the relations between Swaziland and Mozambique and said that such relations, founded by the late King Sobhuza and President Machel, have to be retained between the two countries. Mr Dlamini said he was later driven to a holiday resort of Ponta do Ouro, where he spent 3 nights.

During his stay, he held talks with top government officials on matters of mutual interest between the two governments. Mr Dlamini said Swaziland was also greatly honored to have hosted the recent summit talks between the governments of Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa. He praised President Samora Machel for having taken the action of opening dialogue with the Republic of South Africa on a number of important topics affecting the two neighboring states in the southern region and exchanging views on the region in general. Minister Dlamini said Swaziland also knows that during his recent Western trips, President Machel had represented not only Mozambique, but Swaziland as well.

ZAMBIA

Talks Held With Zairian Delegation Over Border Issues

MB171920 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] A 7-man Zairian delegation led by Sakania's commissioner, (Nabangala Kwazi), had talks in Chililabombwe with their Zambian counterparts yesterday on border problems. Area Governor Bonaventure Lubilo told ZANA after the meeting was held at the council chambers that the talks were held in a friendly and cordial manner. Mr Lubilo, who led the Zambian delegation at the talks, said the two sides have agreed on a number of issues concerning the problems at the border, and their recommendations will be passed to Copperbelt Member of the Central Committee Alex Shapi and his Zairian counterpart for Shaba Province, Governor (Madungu Bulanyandi).

The meeting also agreed to release a Zambian truck which was impounded by the Zairians at Kasumbalesa border post [words indistinct] after it had hit into a customs barrier on the Zairian side of the border. Mr Lubilo urged the Zairian delegation to meet regularly with Zambian officials in Chililabombwe to iron out the regular border problems.

ZIMBABWE

Soviet Trade Delegation To Sign New Agreement

MB172020 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] A four-member Soviet trade delegation led by the first deputy minister of foreign trade, Comrade Gennadiy Zhuravlev, is in Zimbabwe. Tomorrow the delegation will sign a trade and [word indistinct] agreement with the minister of trade and commerce, Comrade Richard Hove.

Comrade Zhuravlev told the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation today that there is a possibility of Zimbabwe buying cars and hydroelectric equipment from the Soviet Union. He said the Soviet Union will continue buying sugar, maize, and tobacco from Zimbabwe.

Bulgarian Party Delegation Arrives for Talks

MB171940 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] A delegation from the Bulgarian Communist Party is in Zimbabwe to examine areas of future cooperation between this country and Bulgaria. The delegation, headed by the head of the Agriculture Department of the Bulgarian Communist Party, Comrade Angel Bobokov, arrived on Sunday. Their visit is likely to result in the signing of a 2-year cooperation agreement covering agriculture and economic exchanges.

Bulgaria's ambassador to Zimbabwe, Comrade Khristo Kolev, told the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation this evening that the delegation hopes to strengthen solidarity and cooperation between ZANU-PF and the Communist Party of Bulgaria. It is hoped that delegations from the two parties [words indistinct] will exchange visits soon. Already, ZANU-PF is sending 12 of its members every year to study Bulgaria's experience in building a socialist society.